

# PATROL NEWS

March/April 2014

"Over 80 YEARS OF SERVICE & PROTECTION"



Cover details on page 3.



# From the Staff ...

Major Dale A. Schmidt  
Support Services Bureau



## *Community Oriented Service*

In 1931, troopers were told to drive with their vehicle tops down so the public would know who we were. There was a specific routine or route many officers would follow each shift and, if needed, the troop would call a business or office and the information would be relayed to the trooper when they came by. Using this process, the officers and members of the community would bond; a trust was formed and friendships were made. Little did they know that decades later law enforcement would call this Community Oriented Policing (COP).

Fast forward 80 years. For the last three years as Support Services Bureau major, I have perused all nominations reviewed by the Awards Committee. It became apparent that while the Patrol still uses a modernized COP model, many employees of the Patrol are heavily involved in community oriented service. There are Patrol employees coaching children's sports, going on church mission trips, serving as members of school boards and parent teacher associations, working with the Big Brothers/Big Sisters programs, supporting Special Olympics and food drives, promoting humanitarian causes as members of civic organization such as Rotary or Optimists clubs, providing leadership in Scouting, and the list goes on.

*"Volunteers are not paid. Not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless."*

—Anonymous

I agree with that sentiment. In many cases, it is not just our employee, but their entire family who work to make a difference in their community. It would be rare to find a community within the state that an employee of the Patrol has not touched in a positive way.

We who are drawn to public service do these things because we love our communities, and we want to make a difference. Thank you for letting me be a part of such an organization.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dale A. Schmidt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dale" being the most prominent.

The Official Publication of the  
Missouri State Highway Patrol

## PATROL NEWS

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State of Missouri

Jerry Lee, Director  
Department of Public Safety

Col. Ron Replogle, Superintendent  
Missouri State Highway Patrol

### PATROL NEWS STAFF

Capt. J. Tim Hull  
Managing Editor

Cheryl Cobb  
Editor

Erin Center  
Design-Layout

Chad Buschjost  
Printing & Assembly

Brenda Schmitz  
Photography

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# PATROL NEWS

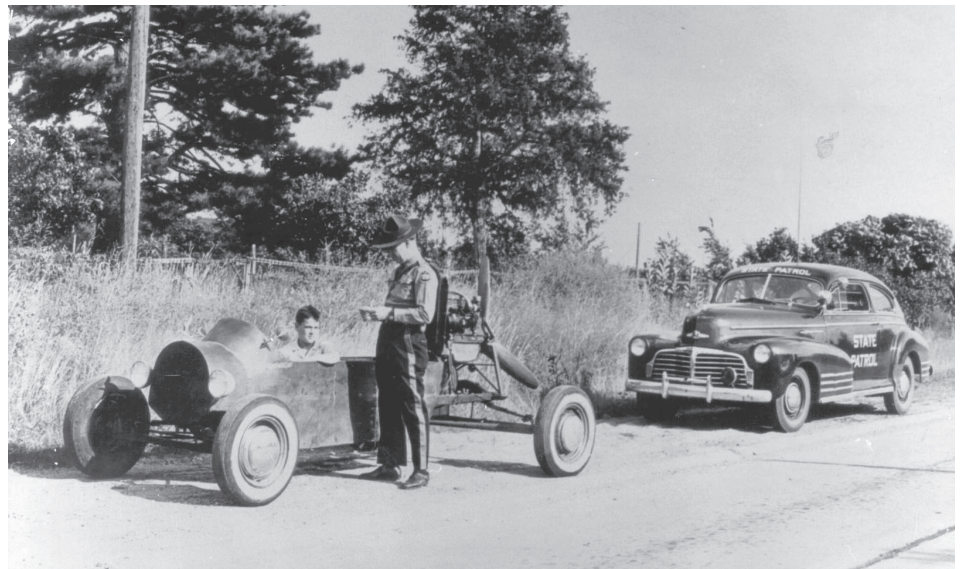
March-April 2014

"Over 80 YEARS OF SERVICE & PROTECTION"

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## A Picture Is Worth 1,000 Words



*Trooper H.A. Hansen is concerned about the safety of the driver operating this unique, propeller-driven vehicle built in Paris, MO, in 1945. This is one of the many pictures found on the history wall of the Colonel Alvin R. Lubker Memorial Safety & Education Center located in the basement of General Headquarters.*

## Cover

*After a long, cold winter, spring arrived in the capital city. Patrol Photographer Brenda J. Schmitz, Q/PIED, took this photo showing tulips in full bloom at Missouri's Capitol.*

# PERSPECTIVE

## Memorial Highways Link Two Missouri Heroes

*By Ret. Lt. Edwin E. Wright*

Within a short distance of each other on U.S. Highway 60 near Mountain Grove, MO, are memorial signs honoring two Missouri citizens who gave their lives while serving and protecting their state and country. A few miles east of Mountain Grove in both the eastbound and westbound lanes are signs that read, "Trooper Donald Floyd Memorial Highway." Tpr. Floyd, a member of the Missouri State Highway Patrol, lost his life at the scene of a traffic crash while on duty. This event is, of course, well noted in Patrol history. A few miles west of Mountain Grove in Norwood, MO, at each end of

the Missouri Route E Bridge over U.S. 60 are signs which state, "Pvt. Ova A. Kelley Medal of Honor Memorial Bridge."

Pvt. Kelley was awarded the Medal of Honor, the highest military decoration issued by the United States military forces, for his actions against enemy forces on Leyte, Philippine Islands, on December 8, 1944. He lost his life in the accomplishment of his actions. He was in very elite company. There were only 10 men in Missouri to receive the Medal of Honor in World War II. Pvt. Kelley was living a few miles north of U.S. 60 when he was inducted into the U.S. Army.

It is fitting and proper that these two men have highly visible and lasting memorials as a testament to losing their lives in the service and protection of their state and country. These two memorials have a little extra meaning for me as I served over 30 years in Trooper Floyd's organization; and I was serving in the same regiment as Pvt. Kelley at the time of his actions. I was engaged in action in the vicinity where Pvt. Kelley showed outstanding courage and inspired his entire company to a successful attack. Incidentally, Pvt. Kelley's action occurred on my 20th birthday.

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## Fire & Rescue To Troop I: Thank You

*By Troop I*

During the early morning hours of August 6, 2013, Troop F Lieutenant Justin L. McCullough (a Troop I sergeant at the time of the incident) and Corporal Lance D. DeClue, Troop

I, rescued several individuals in the raging flood waters of Mitchell Creek in Pulaski County. Among those saved were members of Ft. Leonard Wood Fire and Rescue, whose lives were put in peril after their vessel capsized during their rescue attempt. In recog-

nition of their lifesaving efforts, members of Ft. Leonard Wood Fire and Rescue presented Lt. McCullough and Cpl. DeClue with plaques and swiftwater rescue helmets. The blue rescue helmets were personalized with the officers' last names and badge numbers.



*Pictured with Lt. Justin McCullough (l), Troop F, and Cpl. Lance DeClue, Troop I, are members of Ft. Leonard Wood Fire and Rescue.*



# Price, Butler, Miller Honored For Actions

*By Public Info. Spec. III Cheryl D. Cobb, Q/PIED*

On September 12, 2013, Corporal Freddie L. Butler Jr., Troop E, stopped to investigate an abandoned vehicle on the Interstate 155 bridge which connects Missouri and Tennessee. His investigation yielded information that the vehicle's owner might have been suicidal. A search of the Mississippi River by marine operations troopers and vessels aided by Patrol aircraft began. The Patrol pilot, Sergeant Shawn L. Price, Q/AD, and his spotter, Trooper Adam N. Miller, located the body of a female on the riverbank partially submerged in the river. After finding a safe place to land, Tpr. Miller took first aid supplies and trekked 300 yards through thick vegetation to reach the victim. The female was alive yet critically injured. Sgt. Price requested emergency services and guided Air Evac crew members to the woman's location. The victim was flown to Elvis Presley Medical Center in Memphis, TN, where she received the medical care she needed. Since the incident, the woman was released from the hospital and has recuperated.

Department of Public Safety Director Jerry Lee honored the initiative and immediate action of these officers by naming them DPS Employees of the Month for February 2014. The director presented these awards to Sgt. Price, Cpl. Butler, and Tpr. Miller during a ceremony on February 17, at General Headquarters.

"Sgt. Price, Cpl. Butler, and Tpr. Miller did an outstanding job on September 12, 2013, in saving a young woman's life," said Colonel Ron Replogle. "Their dedication to duty and quick actions demonstrated *in action* the Patrol's core values on that morning. We are very proud to honor them as the Department of Public Safety Employees of the Month for February 2014."

"First, congratulations to each of you," said Captain George E. Ridens, Troop E. "This started with an abandoned vehicle parked on a bridge. No one was in the vehicle and Cpl. Butler's extra work led us to a woman who had tried to hurt herself. Many officers might have run the license plate and tagged it to be towed. But, Cpl. Butler took the time to speak to the family and realized this woman could be hurt. Sgt.



*Pictured are Col. Ron Replogle, Tpr. Adam Miller, Troop E, Sgt. Shawn Price, Q/AD, Cpl. Freddie Butler, Troop E, and DPS Director Jerry Lee.*

Price and Tpr. Miller then responded in a Patrol aircraft, located the woman, and coordinated an emergency rescue. I want to thank each of these officers

for what they did that day—the job they do every day."

*Congratulations, gentlemen!*

## Troop F Recognizes Three For Lifesaving Actions

*By Sgt. Paul J. Reinsch, Troop F*

On October 6, 2013, a single vehicle crash on northbound U.S. Highway 63, near Silver Fork Creek in Boone County, MO, resulted in the nomination of three men for an Honorary Trooper award. The crash occurred as an impaired driver traveled off the left side of the road, overcorrected, returned to the road, and traveled off the right side of the road. The vehicle struck and traveled through a guardrail, after which it caught fire.

Mr. James L. Peters, Mr. Kevin R. Thomas, and Mr. Benjamin L. Hunsucker were responsible for calling \*55 and safely removing the lone occupant from the vehicle. The driver had been partially ejected, and the brave decision to remove the driver from the vehicle ultimately saved a life.

The three gentlemen were honored and presented with certificates on January 27, 2014, at a presentation in Columbia, MO. Congratulations to each of them for their heroic efforts.



*(front, l to r) Lt. Justin L. McCullough, Troop F, Mr. Benjamin L. Hunsucker, Mr. James L. Peters, Mr. Kevin R. Thomas, Captain Gregory D. Kindle, Troop F, (back, l to r) Tpr. Jonathan A. Cluver, Cpl. Scott A. Ballard, Sgt. Mike A. Halford, all Troop F, are pictured.*



# New Employees



Julie A. Bock  
Food Service Helper I  
Q/TND



Megan E. Braun  
CJIS Technician I  
CJISD



Bryan C. Braunschweig  
CIT III  
Q/ICTD



Kyle R. Copeland  
Clerk Typist I  
Troop D



Logan J. Peters  
CIT I  
Q/ICTD



Robert J. Sweet  
CJIS Technician I  
CJISD



Deborah R. Vaughn  
DE I  
Troop C



Megan E. Wogan  
CJIS Technician I  
CJISD

## BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

### *Cyril David*

Mr. Erik S. & Clerk Typist III Stacia  
A. Boyum  
Q/MVI

### *Larsyn Rhae*

Sgt. Jason S. & Mrs. Jodie R.  
Brumble  
Troop G

### *Baylor Gayle*

Cpl. Richard D. & Mrs. Brittney N.  
Owens  
Troop E

### *Kennedy Ireland*

Cpl. Travis S. & Mrs. Terra N. Croft  
Troop C

### *Emerie Christine*

Cpl. David C. & Mrs. Ashley N. Dinges  
Q/AD

### *Kamran*

CITS II Ryan C. & Mrs. Kendra D.  
Badresingh  
Q/ICTD

### *Kamdyn Ann*

Tpr. J. Clint & Mrs. Tatum L.  
Gilliland  
Troop H

### *Anthony*

Mr. Daniel A. & DE II Julia A.  
Conrad  
Troop C



# Cpl. May Honored For Work Ethic, Professionalism

*By Sgt. Dan J. Crain, Troop I*

Corporal Rob G. May II, Troop I, is the Missouri State Highway Patrol's 2013 nominee for the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators' Butch Potts Boating Law Enforcement Officer of the Year award. This award is presented annually at the state, regional, and national levels to recognize the boating law enforcement officers who have made outstanding contributions to the field of boating law enforcement.

Cpl. May's nomination was based upon his consistent work ethic and professionalism, which he consistently exhibits and so outstandingly displayed in 2013. Specifically, Cpl. May's nomination mentioned his impressive enforcement efforts, his skill in coordinating special enforcement operations,



*Pictured left to right are Capt. Lee Ann H. Kenley, Troop I, Cpl. Rob May II, Troop I, and Major J. Bret Johnson, Q/FOB.*

and his expertise in training both swiftwater rescuers and the boating standard field sobriety testing course for law enforcement officers.

Major J. Bret Johnson, Q/FOB, and Captain Lee Ann H. Kenley, Troop I, presented the NASBLA Butch Potts Boating Law Enforcement Officer

of the Year award to Cpl. May at the Troop I sergeants' meeting on December 17, 2013. Cpl. May is being considered, along with the nominees from other states, for the Butch Potts Boater Law Enforcement Officer of the Year award at the national level.

*Congratulations, Cpl. May!*

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## Memorial Highway Honors Cpl. Parsley

*By Sgt. Jody T. Laramore, Troop E*

On December 29, 2013, at 2 p.m., a portion of Route J in Stoddard County was renamed the Corporal Jay Parsley Memorial Highway. Many supporters and Patrol employees were present for the dedication ceremony, which took place at the Duck Creek Baptist Church east of Puxico, MO. Cpl. Parsley died in January 2011. Because Cpl. Parsley was not killed in the line of duty, it took a petition with 100 signatures and funds to cover the cost of the signs to create the memorial highway. Within one week, 400 people signed the petition! A resident of Bloomfield, MO, donated the \$2,400 needed. State Representative Dennis Fowler was instrumental in getting the highway dedicated. Thank you to everyone who helped make this possible and to those who attended the dedication ceremony.



*The Parsley family surrounds a memorial highway sign saluting Cpl. Jay A. Parsley.*



# Springfield Crime Lab Turns 5!

**By Criminalist Spru. Matt J. Lepper, Q/CLD  
& Director Bill E. Marbaker, Q/CLD**

The Missouri State Highway Patrol's Springfield Crime Laboratory in Troop D recently celebrated its fifth anniversary. The Crime Laboratory's Springfield location was dedicated on December 15, 2008. Prior to the construction of the new laboratory, the Patrol operated a very small facility located on the campus of Missouri State University, performing only controlled substance analysis. The new three-story, 30,000-square-foot facility provided the resources necessary for the Springfield location to become the Patrol's second full-service laboratory in the state. The new Missouri State Highway Patrol Crime Laboratory in Springfield was the result of local, state, and federal cooperation and support. The city of Springfield, Greene County, and surrounding cities and counties all banded together to provide most of the funding necessary for the construction of the new facility. A \$1.5 million federal grant provided much of the equipment for the new laboratory.

The state of Missouri contributed part of the construction costs and funded 21 additional personnel to make the new Springfield Crime Laboratory a reality.

Currently, 23 full-time criminalists are employed across six forensic science disciplines, which include drug chemistry, toxicology, trace evidence, DNA, firearms/tool marks, and latent prints. In addition, three full-time laboratory evidence technicians are responsible for coordinating the transfer of evidence to and from approximately 80 agencies across Southern Missouri. Since December 2008, these employees, with combined laboratory experience of nearly 195 years, issued over 38,000 forensic laboratory reports.

The duties of a criminalist are not limited to the analysis of evidence.



*The Patrol's Springfield Crime Laboratory location celebrated its fifth anniversary.*

Since December 2008, Patrol criminalists working in Springfield received over 2,800 subpoenas and testified in approximately 230 court proceedings. Not every subpoena results in a court appearance, and not every appearance results in testimony given, but a considerable amount of resources, including travel, are directed toward court preparation and testimony. Some local jurisdictions place criminalists on "standby" allowing them to remain at the laboratory, only traveling to court when absolutely needed. Prior to the Springfield Crime Laboratory being built, that arrangement was not possible in cases where a criminalist needed for court in Southwest Missouri was located in Jefferson City. As a result, a substantial amount of analyst time and state resources have been saved.

The Crime Laboratory's Springfield location has reduced dramatically the workload of the GHQ Laboratory in Jefferson City, resulting in more timely analysis of evidence for law enforcement agencies statewide. This, in turn, has impacted positively the entire criminal justice system, resulting in a safer society for all citizens of the state of Missouri.



*Criminalist Spru. Jason L. Wyckoff, Q/CLD, extracts DNA from a sample.*



*Criminalist III Alex A. Belt, Q/CLD, compares the recovered bullets to those from a crime.*

*Criminalist III Nicholle D. Rhodes, Q/CLD, processes a weapon for latent prints at the downflow work station.*





# Troop I Provides Basic Water Safety Training

*By Sgt. Dan J. Crain, Troop I*

On January 15-16, 2014, Troop I officers completed a basic water safety course. This was the first time such training occurred outside the Patrol's Law Enforcement Academy. Those officers taking the class had not previously attended either swiftwater rescue training or the three week marine operation training. Sergeant Kurt C. Merseal and Corporal Robert G. May II, both assigned to Troop I, designed and conducted the training course, which included one hour of classroom and approximately two hours of practical exercise in a swimming pool. The trainers, who prior to the January 1, 2011 merger, were Missouri State Water Patrol Officers, used their experience and knowledge as they instructed their fellow troopers in a few of the most vital areas of water safety and survival.

"The first hour was a risk management presentation I use with new Dive Team members and during swiftwater training," said Sgt. Merseal. "It's important that officers recognize the specific hazards associated with water rescue situations, develop a plan to mitigate hazards, and then weigh the risks versus benefit of the situation when determining what action to take. The second part of the training took place in the pool. Our goal was not to teach members to swim, but help them develop confidence in their skills and equipment."

A great deal of emphasis was placed on maintaining a proper floating position. When someone is swept downstream, they can use their body as a rudder in a swift-flowing current, in order to navigate from one side of the stream to the other. The instructors also discussed potential hazards, which included examples of what to do and not to do, when attempting the rescue of a possible drowning victim. This section of training included how to properly use a throw rope to facilitate a water rescue. To make the training as realistic as possible, all troopers were fully clothed and wearing a Patrol-issued life jacket throughout these exercises.

Troop I would like to thank Rolla's Department of Parks and Recreation, and its director, Mr. Scott Caron, for giving us sole access to their indoor pool, which is located within the community's multi-purpose recreational facility. For many of the officers assigned to Troop I, the value of this course was already highlighted during their experiences when responding to the devastating flood of August 2013. It became obvious during the detail that the water rescues conducted by our troopers in the raging, flooded streams could have been deadly had an officer fallen into the water.



*Cpl. Rob May provides direction during Troop I's basic water safety course at a Rolla, MO, Department of Parks and Recreation indoor pool.*

Avoiding a tragic scenario such as that was the key objective of Captain Lee Ann H. Kenley, Troop I's commanding officer, when she mandated this training for all Troop I members.

## TROOPER CONGRATULATES THIRD GRADERS



*Corporal Kyle E. Easley, Troop B, is a frequent reader at Gratz Brown Elementary School in Moberly, MO. After learning the third grade class won the Reading Counts Traveling Trophy for the month of December, Cpl. Easley wanted to celebrate the achievement with the students. So, he stopped by and read "Mooseltoe" by Margie Palatini.*





# Spotlight



## Cpl. Jimmy A. Beckett



**Appointed:** August 1, 1986.

**First Assignment:** Troop A, Zone 4, Clay County.

**Promotions:** Corporal — April 1, 1995.

**Current Assignment:** Trainer, Troop D Headquarters, Springfield, MO.

**Family:** Jimmy is married to Alice (Cates) of Mount Vernon, MO. They have two grown children, Marcus (who is married to Holly) and Maria.

**Interests:** Jimmy enjoys canoeing, fishing, pistol shooting, classic muscle cars, and spending time with his family. For the past 20 years, he has been very active in his church, serving as a deacon. Prior to the Patrol, he was a youth sponsor for the Park Crest congregation in Springfield, MO. Currently, he is assigned as the assistant director of the Springfield branch of the Royal Family Kids (RFK). RFK is the nation's leading network of camps for abused, neglected, and abandoned children whose purpose is to provide a life-changing experience for foster children ages 6-12. Through this organization, Jimmy gives of his time every year to serve as a leader at the RFK camps, most recently in Eagle Rock, MO. He exhibits a passion in helping others and is always willing to give of his time when needed. Jimmy was a 2012

nominee for The MASTERS Public Service Award.

Jimmy is a native of Monett, MO, and graduated from high school there. He then attended Evangel University, where he participated on the college football team.

## Clerk Typist II Meagan R. Shawhan



**Appointed:** August 16, 2012.

**First & Current Assignment:** Clerk Typist II, Troop D, Springfield.

**Interests:** Meagan loves spending time with her family and playing volleyball. She is an avid fan of the Kansas City Royals.

**Family:** Megan and Luke have a 16-month-old daughter named Roselyn. Meagan says Roselyn is the apple of her eye.

Meagan was raised in California, MO, and graduated from California High School. After graduation, she attended Missouri State University in Springfield, MO and received a bachelor's degree in marketing. She met her husband, Luke, while attending Missouri State. He earned his degree in religious studies and is a teacher at Grace Academy.

Meagan spent three years working for Cerner Corporation in Kansas City, MO. Upon moving back to Springfield,

MO, in 2012, she joined the Missouri State Highway Patrol as a clerk typist. She was familiar with the Patrol, having friends and family that worked at the General Headquarters in Jefferson City. At Troop D, Meagan handles paperwork for seven zones. She enjoys the work she does at Troop D and the people that she has met.

She says, "It is a great organization to work for, full of wonderful people."

## Cpl. Clark D. Parrott



**Appointed:** October 20, 2002.

**First Assignment:** Troop H, Zone 9, Mercer, Grundy, & Livingston Counties. He transferred to Troop E, Zone 8, New Madrid & Pemiscot Counties in 2008.

**Promotions/Reclassifications:** Corporal in June 2013.

**Current Assignment:** Public Information & Education Officer, Troop E, Poplar Bluff, MO.

**Family:** Tpr. Parrott's wife, Michele, is a clerk at Troop E Headquarters. They have three children. Their daughter, Jordan, and her husband, Klayton, live in New Mexico; their daughter, Natalie, attends College of The Ozarks; and their son, Hunter, is a freshman at Dexter.

**Interests:** Tpr. Parrott enjoys golf, Cardinal baseball, fishing, and time with his family.

# Welcome Home, DDCC!

## Division Moves Operations To New Site

*Sgt. Kevin J. Hunter, Q/DDCC*

The Missouri State Highway Patrol's Division of Drug and Crime Control recently found a new home. From its inception until 2001, the administrative offices of DDCC were housed in the basement level of the GHQ Annex. In 2001, the division moved away from the annex and found "a place of our own," located at 400 Dix Road. The office soon came to be known as simply "Dix Road."

Dix Road had its share of drawbacks, including a less than optimum office layout, heavy traffic in the area, and a congested parking lot. Even with the drawbacks, the resilient folks assigned to DDCC not only made it work, but made it work at Dix Road for nearly 13 years.

There had been many false alarms over the years, but when the "Hey ... Did you hear we might be moving?"

alarm sounded again in late 2013, it soon became apparent that this was definitely not a drill. Soon after, an operations plan was drafted and placed on the "Y drive." It included detailed specifications related to task assignments and timelines. It seemed as though we were preparing to move a mountain. Some began to think we might actually be moving two mountains, and failure was not an option!

On the afternoon of Friday, January 17, operations at Dix Road were shut down and the relocation process began. On the morning of Tuesday, January 21, DDCC was back in business at the new location, scarcely missing a beat.

The new location and facility is a vast improvement over Dix Road. The fresh paint and new carpeting are a welcome sight to division employees.

Traffic and parking are no longer concerns. The layout is more conducive to compartmentalizing the various functions of the division. The current facility has a large conference room suitable for supervisor and district meetings, and available for use by other divisions as well.

On February 20, 2014, DDCC hosted an open house at the new location in conjunction with the supervisor's meeting. The event was well attended with good food and fellowship being enjoyed by all. For many, this event was the official sigh of relief, with each of us knowing the move was finally over, and we could return to the routine of normal business.

The members and staff of DDCC wish to thank all of the other entities, divisions, and individuals who took time from their busy days and full schedules to make things happen, oftentimes on short notice, to contribute to the success of this endeavor. The effort and sacrifices made by others to assist DDCC with this project are truly what made it all possible. We couldn't have done it without you.

## Anniversaries

### April

#### 30 years

Desig. Prin. Asst. Cindy A. Scheidt, Q/ASO

#### 25 years

Lab. Evid. Tech. II Sherri D. Miller, Q/CLD

#### 20 years

Clerk IV Lisa L. Kempker, Q/PIED

#### 10 years

DE III Regenia K. Forst, Troop D  
CVO II Darin A. Jones, Troop D  
DE Chief Vicki K. Nelson, Troop G

#### 5 years

DE I Bill S. Cantrell, Troop D  
Comm. Oper. II Tim D. Dawson, Troop B  
Comm. Oper. II Tracy A. Hux, Troop H

Bldg. & Grnds. Maint. Sprv. W. Curt Malzner, Q/FFD

### May

#### 35 years

Desig. Prin. Asst. Carla J. Bruemmer, Q/SO

#### 30 years

Quality Control Clerk II Lisa L. Papen, Q/TFD

Specialist II Lori A. Kirchner, Q/CJISD

Buyer II Darrell J. Taube, Q/BPD

#### 25 years

CIT III Jay A. Forbis, Q/ICTD  
Fingerprint Tech. Sprv. Tammy R. Byrd, Q/CJISD

#### 20 years

Video Prod. Spec. II Jeff K. Bassinson, Q/TND

#### 15 years

Chief Tech. James S. Adkins, Q/ICTD

Comm. Oper. II Dori L. Svardal, Troop D  
Sgt. Kirk A. Davis, Q/TND

#### 10 years

DE Chief Angie M. Weddington, Troop B  
DE Sprv. Jennifer M. Whiting, Troop A  
Criminalist III Sean C. Brooks, Q/CLD  
CVO II Bill G. Cooper Jr., Troop E  
CVO II Charlie E. Jennings Jr., Troop D  
Chief CVO Jeff R. Sims, Q/CVED  
CVO Sprv. I Dale R. Smotherman, Troop G

#### 5 years

Clerk Typist III Jamie L. Eichholz, Troop C



# Medals, Hugs, High Fives Presented At Winter Games

**By Sgt. D.J. Hedrick, Troop A**

This year marked the 25th Anniversary of the John L. Cassidy Heartland Winter Games for the Special Olympics. January 23-24, 2014, 132 athletes from Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, and Oklahoma participated in a variety of team and individual competitions. Snow Creek, a ski-service north of Weston, MO, has been the primary location where these special athletes can show others how hard they have trained in the alpine competition, snow shoeing, cross country skiing, and Nordic skiing.

The YMCA in St. Joseph, MO, hosted this year's team competitions, such as floor hockey. Bode Arena, also located in St. Joseph, was the site for the speed skating and figure skating competitions. Clint Armistead, director of sports for Special Olympics Kansas, said the games were a huge success, because of the efforts of every volunteer involved.

This year, Corporal Carl A. Taibi Jr. and Sergeant Bill W. Lowe, both Troop A, along with officers of the Kansas City [KS] Police Department, presented the athletes with their well earned medals and ribbons. Many high fives and hugs were given out congratulating the athletes. Sgt. Lowe, who has assisted with many of the medal ceremonies for Special Olympics, stated, "It is always fulfilling to be able to share the successes of each athlete that participates. To see the joy in their faces when I put a medal



*Cpl. Carl Taibi awards a medal at the Winter Games.*

around their necks is something I will always remember."

This was Cpl. Taibi's first year to present medals to the athletes. Even though the outside temperatures were below 10 degrees, he was impressed with how much fun the athletes were

having competing not only against other athletes, but competing to better their personal best. Cpl. Taibi said he had a good time with Sergeant Rick C. Fletcher, Sgt. Lowe, both Troop A, and several officers from the Kansas City [KS] Police Department. "Even though we were there to present the athletes with their medals, I could tell they were happy competing and being around their friends and families," said Cpl. Taibi. It was just an honor to share their moment with them. I believe being involved in programs such as the Winter Games for Special Olympics is an opportunity for us to give back to the community. I was af-

fected by the sportsmanship shown by the athletes to others. It was an honor to be a part of that experience, and it is something I will cherish."

The tentative date for next year's John L. Cassidy Heartland Winter Games is January 16-17, 2015.



*These champions are all smiles at the John L. Cassidy Heartland Winter Games.*



*The opening ceremony of the John L. Cassidy Heartland Winter Games celebrated the mission of Special Olympics.*

*Let the games begin! A Special Olympian lights the torch.*



# Cpl. Bracker Lassos Cattle Rustlers

By Public Info. Spec. III Cheryl D. Cobb, Q/PIED

The advent of the Internet and cell phones necessitated having investigators who specialized in “cyber crimes.” Yet, there’s another type of crime affecting many Missourians and involving hundreds of thousands of dollars that’s gaining attention these days. It’s hard to believe that in this day of technological advancements that an age-old crime like *cattle rustling* remains a problem in Southwest Missouri. But, it does.

In the fall 2009, a grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (U.S. Department of Justice) allowed for the creation of a Rural Crimes Investigative Unit. This group of investigators and analysts were tasked with addressing specific agriculture-related crimes. The task force is now funded through the Missouri Legislature, includes 10 investigators, and a (civilian) criminal analyst.

For two years, Southwest Missouri was inundated with cattle thefts. Those responsible seemed to be able to steal cattle easily and residents were outraged. Stories appeared in the media and emotions were running high.

Enter into the story Corporal Michael S. Bracker, Q/DDCC and a member of Missouri’s Rural Crime Investigative Unit. He began working with local sheriffs and victims, and collecting evidence. It was a daunting task because cattle continued to disappear and the thefts continued. Victims were demanding immediate justice.

Cpl. Bracker’s investigation yielded a potential suspect, but little evidence. Cpl. Bracker applied for and received a search warrant allowing him to apply a tracking device to the suspect’s vehicle. This device allowed Cpl. Bracker to monitor the suspect’s

activity. Whenever the vehicle was in use, Cpl. Bracker received a message—no matter what day of the week or time of day. He monitored the tracking device for months. As a result of Cpl. Bracker’s dedication, his investigation yielded a stolen vehicle the suspect was using to further his criminal activity as well as the location of stolen property hidden in remote areas of rural Missouri. The suspect was arrested and held on a \$1 million bond. Over \$200,000 in stolen property has been recovered. Additional suspects have been identified and more charges are expected.



(l to r) Colonel Ron Replogle, Cpl. Mike Bracker, DPS Director Jerry Lee, and Mrs. Missy D. Bracker pause for a photo after the January 2014 DPS Employee of the Month ceremony.

Department of Public Safety Director Jerry Lee recognized Cpl. Bracker’s work by naming him January 2014 DPS Employee of the Month. At a presentation on January 24, the director presented Cpl. Bracker with a certificate and challenge coin.

Colonel Ron Replogle congratulated Cpl. Bracker and presented him with a Patrol challenge coin. He thanked Cpl. Bracker’s wife, Missy, for coming to the ceremony and told

everyone, “I’ve always said, ‘Behind a good trooper is a great wife.’”

Col. Replogle spoke of the RCIU and the interest from legislators, saying when he testified in front of the budget committee at the Capitol he heard great comments about the unit. “The RCIU’s work is recognized as important,” he said.

“My congratulations to you,” said Director Lee. “Some people don’t realize that cattle rustling still occurs. It’s not restricted to one city or county. It can go through multiple counties and even state-to-state. Legislators feel it’s an important function of the Patrol. It is. Thank you, and great job.”

“Cases like this show the value of a unit like this,” said Major Luke Vislay, Q/CIB. “I appreciate everyone in the unit. I’m exceedingly proud it’s in my bureau and in our agency.”

“Thank you, Missy, for supporting Mike through this challenging investigation,” said Captain Sarah L. Eberhard, Q/DDCC. “I know he would not have been as focused and effective without that support. I know that there is stiff competition for the DPS Award because of all of the outstanding work across the state. I am always proud when a member of DDCC is selected and today is no exception. I feel very fortunate to have Mike in the division.”

“I know this case was both very challenging and frustrating for Mike,” Capt. Eberhard continued. “These two criminals were not your ordinary criminals at ages 64 and 65. They were very good at their ‘jobs.’ Many years ago, one of them was a suspect

*Continued on the next page.*



## — Bracker

Continued from page 13.

in numerous agricultural thefts, but there was not probable cause to make an arrest. A couple of DDCC investigators approached this man and engaged him in a consensual conversation. The man responded something to the affect, *'I'm a thief; you're the police. My job is to steal and your job is to catch me. I'm not going to help you do your job.'* It took some creative investigative work and considerable sacrifice on Mike's part, but ultimately the arrests of both men had a very positive impact for Missouri. Those arrests not only brought a sense of justice to 23 victims, but also sent a very strong message to those who think it's OK to steal from others. Because Missouri is an agriculture state, we are a target for rural crime. Since 2009, and the creation of Rural Crimes Unit and the partnership with Farm Protection Task Force, officers have made over 300 arrests and recovered over \$6.6 million in stolen property. Through aggressive enforcement and education, Missouri is no longer an easy target. Mike, again, congratulations, this award is very well deserved."

"I appreciate the recognition for the Rural Crime Investigations Unit," said Cpl. Bracker. "This investigation truly was a cooperative effort between the Highway Patrol and multiple local law enforcement agencies in Southwest Missouri. This effort led to the successful apprehension and arrest of a man responsible for stealing hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of livestock and agricultural equipment."

## Gov. Nixon Honors McCullough, DeClue

To recognize their brave actions during a flash flood, Gov. Jay Nixon presented Missouri State Employee of the Month awards to Lieutenant Justin L. McCullough, Troop F, and Corporal Lance D. DeClue, Troop I. The presentation took place in the Governor's Office on February 10, 2014.

The governor congratulated Lt. McCullough and Cpl. DeClue on receiving this significant honor. "Missouri is a great place to live and raise a family," said Gov. Nixon. "You two are stellar examples of how we make it that way."




The two officers responded to a flash flooding incident in Waynesville, MO, in August 2013. At great personal risk, they saved seven lives, including several first responders. They accepted Department of Public Safety Employee of the Month awards from DPS Director Jerry Lee in December 2013. (See detailed story in the January/February 2014 Patrol News.)

*Congratulations, Lt. McCullough and Cpl. DeClue!*



Gov. Jay Nixon (center) is pictured with Cpl. Lance DeClue (governor's right), Lt. Justin McCullough (governor's left), their families, and co-workers.

## March

- Mar. 2  • Tpr. J.M. Froemsdorf died in 1985.
- Mar. 9  • Central Daylight Time begins at 0200 hours.
- Mar. 20  • Sgt. C.D. Graham Jr. died in 2005.

TRAFFIC FATALITIES				
Year To Date April 2, 2014	Same Period Last Year Year To Date	Number Of Increase Or Decrease	2012 Traffic Fatalities	2013 Traffic Fatalities
142	140	+2	826	758

Note: These totals do not include late deaths.

# Promotions



Tim McDonald  
Major  
Q/SO



Duane L. Robinson  
Major  
Q/SSB



Mark G. Inman  
Captain  
Troop G



Jim E. McDonald  
Captain  
Troop H



Don S. Larsen  
Lieutenant  
Troop G



Ron J. Miesner  
Lieutenant  
Troop C



W. Shane Sims  
Lieutenant  
Troop H



Jason L. Decker  
Sergeant  
Troop C



Bob E. Hoehn  
Sergeant  
Troop C



Gara N. Howard  
Sergeant  
Troop H



Jason E. Riggs  
Sergeant  
Troop I



Brandon W. Adamson  
Corporal  
Troop F



Kent A. Brackett  
Corporal  
Troop I



Joseph D. Flynn  
Corporal  
Troop C



Joe T. Peart  
Corporal  
Troop I



# Promotions



Kurt A. Schmutzler  
Corporal  
Troop H



Laurie C. Wall  
Chief Oper.  
Troop H



Megan B. Davila  
Comm. Oper. II  
Troop A



Charlie F. Kirby  
Comm. Oper. II  
Troop D



Dominick D. Love  
Comm. Oper. II  
Troop C



Ashley N. Priest  
Comm. Oper. II  
Troop C



Julie A. Weston  
Comm. Oper. II  
Troop F



Mason E. Redmon  
Comm. Oper. II  
Troop G



Darin A. Stevens  
Comm. Oper. II  
Troop E



Lori L. Wood  
Comm. Oper. II  
Troop G



Travis S. Bauer  
Auto. Tech. III  
Q/FFD



Lisa L. Bird  
DE III  
Troop A



Elisha M. Carlock  
Technician II  
Q/CJISD



Maurice Carter  
DE II  
Troop E



Allen W. Cook  
CVE Inspector III  
Troop C



# Promotions



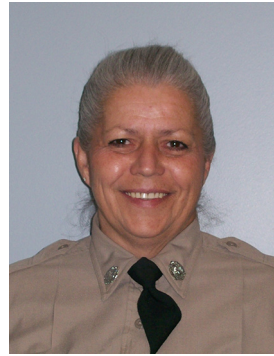
Teresa A. Davidson  
CVE Inspector III  
Troop H



Heather A. Dlabach  
Criminalist III  
Q/CLD



Truman D. Doolittle II  
CVE Inspector II  
Troop H



Donna F. Fields  
MVI III  
Troop A



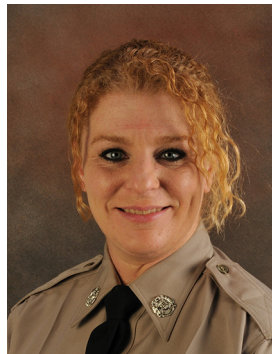
C. Gene Harmon  
DE III  
Troop D



Donald J. Hartmann  
CVE Inspector II  
Troop C



Nikki S. Harvel  
Criminalist II  
Q/CLD



Amy L. Hughes  
CVE Insp. III  
Troop H



Mona L. Ketcherside  
Clerk Typist III  
Troop E



Tyler D. Kyle  
CVE Inspector II  
Troop C



Kevin J. Lindenbusch  
MVI II  
Troop C



Lorenzo Marquez  
CVE Inspector III  
Troop C



Terry McElyea  
DE Sprv.  
Troop D



Brenda K. McIntyre  
CVE Inspector II  
Troop E



Jeremy K. Monds  
CVE Inspector II  
Troop G



# Promotions



Amie J. Nix  
Criminalist Sprv.  
Q/CLD



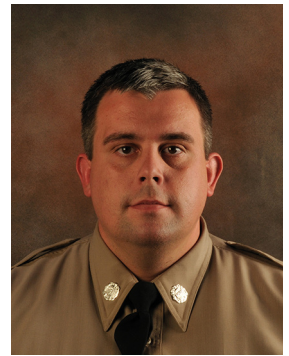
Jay F. Patterson Jr.  
CVE Inspector II  
Troop E



Jamaka S. Quinn  
CVE Inspector Sprv. I  
Troop A



Becky R. Peters  
Qual. Control Clerk II  
Q/CVED



L. Mitch Rader Jr.  
MVI III  
Troop C



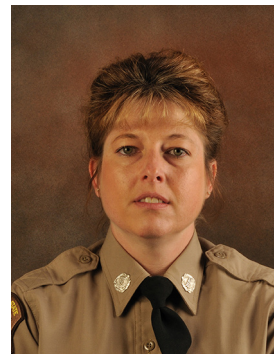
Jared F. Roop  
Criminalist II  
Q/CLD



Joy A. Sweigart  
Technician III  
Q/CJISD



Dave A. Vandermark  
MVI Sprv.  
Troop A



Angie M. Weddington  
DE Chief  
Troop B



Jared L. Whited  
CVE Inspector II  
Troop C



Joseph J. Williams  
DE III  
Troop C



Vince P. Wiley  
CVE Inspector II  
Troop A

“I have learned that success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has had to overcome while trying to succeed.”

— Booker T. Washington



# 'I Don't Mind Paying That Ticket'

*By Sgt. D.J. Hedrick, Troop A*

For the past 29 years, officers from law enforcement agencies throughout the state and Special Olympic Missouri have worked together through volunteering their time and holding fundraisers to help create a more positive and profound change in the lives of children and adults with mental disabilities. Many officers give their own time to work with these incredible athletes, and find the experience provides memories lasting a lifetime. The Tip-A-Trooper fundraiser is just one of the ways area troopers are able give back to this wonderful organization.

On Monday, February 17, 2014, employees of the Country Cookin' Cafe, located at 524 Branch Street, Platte City, MO, along with members of the Missouri State Highway Patrol, teamed up to show their support for Special Olympics Missouri. This marked the fourth year "Tip-A-Trooper" was held at the local restaurant, which is owned by Tammy Berry, of Weston, MO. The Troop A staff, members, and employees have been supporting Special Olympics Missouri through presenting medals at the Winter Games and Basketball Competitions, participating in the Polar Plunge (freezin' for a reason), and Law Enforcement Torch Run activities for years. Special Olympics athletes train and work hard, just like any other athlete. Through fundraisers like this, the Patrol and others help provide the



*(l to r) Sgt. Dale A. Chenoweth, Lt. B. Tim Deshler, Sgt. D.J. Hedrick, all Troop A, Ms. Linsey Triplett, Ms. Tammy Berry, Ms Lindsay Spinner, Cpl. Chad S. Kutzner, Troop A, Cpl. Carl A. Taibi Jr., Troop A, and Lt. Scott A. Shippers, Troop A, worked hard to raise money during Tip-A-Trooper.*

funds needed to continue to offer training and sporting events for these unbelievable athletes, who push themselves to new limits and strive to be the best in their field of competition.

Every year, Ms. Berry and her employees, look forward to this fundraiser, because they get to see the "boys in blue" sweat. The troopers wait and clean tables, take orders, and fill customer's empty coffee cups. One customer said he had never had someone make so much fuss over him.

Of course, the fundraising would not be what it is without the support of the local community, who give way beyond their means. The individuals who give graciously are doing it because they believe in providing for others. This year, the Tip-A-Trooper fundraiser for Special Olympics Missouri raised \$1,016.87 through tips and donations. During the fundraiser, held from 7:30 a.m. - 12 p.m., \$185 worth of Special Olympic T-shirts were sold, bringing the grand total for the fundraiser to \$1,201.87, the highest

amount raised by Tip-A-Trooper. It was very nice to see a couple of our news stations from the Kansas City, MO, area get the word out by running a special about the fundraiser on television. This occurred because Sergeant Collin M. Stosberg, Troop A, prepared a news release letting them know about the fundraiser.

I am honored to be serving these people and their community. It is a fantastic venue to get to know individuals who live in the area where I serve. I heard a lot of bantering back and forth between the troopers and patrons. I saw several local patrons watching and laughing at us because we were out of our element. Another great quote I heard during the day was when I handed one patron the bill for his meal. He said, "I don't mind paying for this ticket." In the end, with all of us working as a team, money was raised for a worthy organization.

I want to thank all who were a part of making Tip-A-Trooper a success story about which we all can be proud. Special Olympics Missouri's mission is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic sports for all children and adults with mental disabilities. For more information about Special Olympics, contact Susan Stegeman at 1-800-846-2682.



*Sgt. D.J. Hedrick, Troop A, visited with retired Trooper Bruce Kerr and Troop A Chaplain Fred McDaniel, who stopped by during the Tip-A-Trooper event.*



# 'Looking Beyond The Stop'

*The following officers are to be commended for looking beyond the initial traffic/boating stop. Each of these officers made at least one arrest during the period of December 20, 2013 to February 20, 2014. (Editor's note: This column excludes DWI/BWI arrests, warrant arrests, and "plain sight" situations. Keep in mind that there must be information in the "miscellaneous" section of the radio report to be considered for this column.)*

## **Troop A**

Sgt. S.A. Coats, 1 arrest  
Tpr. B. Cole, 1 arrest  
Tpr. E.E. Crabtree, 1 arrest  
Tpr. L.R. Dancy, 1 arrest  
Tpr. S.E. Dodson, 2 arrests  
Tpr. A.A. Engelhart, 2 arrests  
Tpr. S.D. Galaska, 3 arrests  
Tpr. T.I. Goolsby, 1 arrest  
Tpr. B.J. Hamerle, 1 arrest  
Tpr. J.M. Harrison, 2 arrests  
Tpr. G.J. Jenner, 2 arrests  
Tpr. D.J. Kline, 4 arrests  
Sgt. B.A. Kumpf, 1 arrest  
Tpr. D.D. Mathes, 1 arrest  
Sgt. R.B. McGinnis, 3 arrests  
Sgt. G.D. Primm, 1 arrest  
Tpr. B.M. Ryun, 13 arrests  
Sgt. D.L. Schwalm, 2 arrests  
Cpl. R.S. Smith, 1 arrest  
Tpr. D.D. Wohler, 1 arrest  
Tpr. G.B. Wright, 1 arrest

## **Troop B**

Cpl. T.J. Adams, 1 arrest  
Cpl. E.F. Brown, 1 arrest  
Tpr. A.J. Fish, 1 arrest  
Tpr. T.J. Haley, 1 arrest  
Tpr. T.K. Hendershott, 1 arrest  
Tpr. J.P. Johnson, 2 arrests  
Tpr. B.M. Littrell, 1 arrest  
Tpr. C.D. Primm, 1 arrest  
Cpl. D.E. Siegfried, 1 arrest  
Tpr. B.A. Vogt, 1 arrest

## **Troop C**

Cpl. C.M. Arbuthnot, 1 arrest  
Tpr. M.G. Autenrieth, 1 arrest  
Tpr. B.M. Beard, 5 arrests  
Sgt. J.R. Campbell, 3 arrests  
Tpr. R.W. Clement, 3 arrests  
Cpl. T.S. Croft, 1 arrest  
Cpl. L.J. Keathley, 1 arrest  
Cpl. E.R. Kessler, 1 arrest  
Tpr. L.B. Lairmore, 1 arrest  
Tpr. B.W. Long, 1 arrest  
Tpr. J.P. Moller, 1 arrest  
Cpl. J.D. Oughton, 1 arrest  
Tpr. P.G. Sarakas, 1 arrest

Tpr. A.D. Smith, 3 arrests  
Tpr. J.R. Summers, 1 arrest  
Tpr. B.A. Teague, 1 arrest  
Tpr. D.R. Thompson, 1 arrest

## **Troop D**

Tpr. T.A. Barrett, 1 arrest  
Tpr. Z.K. Bryan, 2 arrests  
Tpr. J.W. Choate, 3 arrests  
Sgt. J.W. Crouch, 1 arrest  
Tpr. C.D. Fieser, 1 arrest  
Cpl. M.D. Green, 1 arrest  
Cpl. T.L. Hall, 1 arrest  
Tpr. C.A. Heil, 1 arrest  
Tpr. D.L. Johnson, 2 arrests  
Tpr. K.L. Knight, 3 arrests  
Sgt. S.R. Monk, 2 arrests  
Cpl. S.R. Rowe, 1 arrest  
Tpr. D.W. Scotten, 2 arrests  
Tpr. C.A. Stallcup, 4 arrests  
Tpr. A.B. Ward, 1 arrest  
Tpr. M.R. Young, 1 arrest

## **Troop E**

Tpr. J.K. Brooks, 1 arrest  
Sgt. M.E. Carson, 1 arrest  
Tpr. C.B. Christian, 1 arrest  
Cpl. D.W. Crank, 1 arrest  
Tpr. D.L. DeJournett, 1 arrest  
Tpr. C.D. Hamlett, 2 arrests  
Tpr. C.M. Heath, 1 arrest  
Tpr. J.W. Hunter, 2 arrests  
Cpl. L.R. LeJeune, 2 arrests  
Tpr. M.B. Lomedico, 3 arrests  
Tpr. A.N. Miller, 1 arrest  
Tpr. C.L. Purnell, 1 arrest  
Tpr. E.M. Reynolds, 2 arrests  
Sgt. R.J. Sanders, 1 arrest  
Tpr. R.T. Schneid, 1 arrest  
Cpl. J.S. Stewart, 1 arrest  
Tpr. J.J. West, 2 arrests  
Cpl. G.N. Williams, 1 arrest  
Tpr. J.T. Wilson, 1 arrest  
Tpr. B.D. Wunderlich, 1 arrest

## **Troop F**

Cpl. B.W. Adamson, 5 arrests  
Cpl. S.A. Ballard, 1 arrest  
Tpr. N.J. Borgmeyer, 2 arrests

Tpr. S.A. Brazas, 8 arrests  
Cpl. M.G. Broniec, 2 arrests  
Tpr. Z.A. Czerniewski, 1 arrest  
Tpr. T.C. Fick, 1 arrest  
Tpr. D.L. Fouch, 7 arrests  
Tpr. C.C. Frame, 2 arrests  
Sgt. M.A. Halford, 2 arrests  
Cpl. M.T. Halford, 1 arrest  
Tpr. J.S. Halley, 2 arrests  
Cpl. S.B. Johnson, 3 arrests  
Tpr. M.G. Kettenbach, 4 arrests  
Sgt. J.E. Lowary, 1 arrest  
Tpr. J.D. Miller, 1 arrest  
Cpl. M.E. Morice, 7 arrests  
Tpr. W.R. Plumley Jr., 2 arrests  
Tpr. M.L. Rice, 1 arrest  
Sgt. S.D. Rudloff, 1 arrest  
Tpr. K.A. Schrage, 2 arrests  
Cpl. R.S. Thompson, 1 arrest  
Tpr. C.B. Wilt, 1 arrest  
Tpr. C.A. Winter, 2 arrests

## **Troop G**

Tpr. M.C. Downey, 2 arrests  
Sgt. L.S. Elliott, 1 arrest  
Sgt. S.N. Foster, 1 arrest  
Sgt. S.L. Grass, 1 arrest  
Tpr. R.M. Greenan, 1 arrest  
Cpl. A.D. Johnson, 1 arrest  
Tpr. D.J. Johnson, 7 arrests  
Sgt. S.L. Nelson, 1 arrest  
Cpl. B.D. Odle, 1 arrest  
Tpr. J.W. Philpott, 2 arrests  
Cpl. T.A. Richardson, 1 arrest  
Tpr. J.R. Roberts, 1 arrest  
Tpr. E.M. VanWinkle, 1 arrest  
Tpr. R.D. Vaughan, 2 arrests

## **Troop H**

Tpr. T.J. Black, 1 arrest  
Tpr. S.J. Cool, 1 arrest  
Tpr. J.M. Cross, 2 arrests  
Tpr. A.K. Griffin, 1 arrest  
Tpr. B.R. Hilliard, 1 arrest  
Cpl. S.M. Hux, 2 arrests  
Cpl. J.S. Johnson, 1 arrest  
Tpr. D.A. Landi, 1 arrest

*Continued on the next page.*

## — Stop

Continued from page 20.

Tpr. L.S. Lowe, 1 arrest  
Cpl. J.E. Peabody, 1 arrest  
Sgt. C.B. Root, 1 arrest  
Tpr. V.F. Selsor, 2 arrests  
Tpr. M.L. Starmer, 4 arrests  
Sgt. M.A. Wilhoit, 1 arrest

### Troop I

Tpr. B.J. Graf, 1 arrest  
Tpr. E.T. Hane, 1 arrest  
Tpr. J.A. Ice, 1 arrest  
Tpr. J.R. McCurdy, 1 arrest  
Tpr. K.D. Rapier, 1 arrest  
Tpr. N.A. Smith, 2 arrests  
Cpl. K.D. Wilmont, 1 arrest

## COPS Hands-On Programs 2014

- **Adult Children's Retreat**  
June 20-23, 2014
- **Kids Camp**  
July 28-August 3, 2014
- **Outward Bound**  
July 27-August 3, 2014
- **Fiancés/Significant Others Retreat**  
August 15-18, 2014
- **Siblings Retreat**  
September 5-8, 2014
- **Spouses Retreat**  
September 19-22, 2014
- **Co-Workers Retreat**  
October 3-6, 2014
- **Extended Family Retreat**  
(Formerly In-Laws Retreat)  
October 17-20, 2014
- **Parents Retreat**  
October 24-27, 2014

(For details visit [www.nationalcops.org](http://www.nationalcops.org).)

## Troop F Marine Operations Performs Public Service

By Troop F

Troop F road troopers weren't the only officers battling cold temperatures and ice this winter. Marine operations troopers provided a public service by breaking and removing ice from Public Beach #2 at the Lake of the Ozarks. Administrators from the state park and Osage



Marine Operations troopers break the ice for the 2014 Polar Bear Plunge at Lake of the Ozarks.

Beach Police Department questioned if the cove could be opened up for the annual Polar Bear Plunge scheduled on Saturday, February 22, 2014. Lieutenant J. Dave Wall, Sergeant Randy R. Henry, and Corporal Steve M. Burgun, all Troop F, maneuvered their boats onto the ice to break through, then used the jet pumps on their boats and a strong westerly wind to remove the ice from the cove. The ice was over six inches thick in the plunge area and covered the entire cove from the launch ramp to approximately 125 yards back into the cove area. The efforts of these troopers enabled the 2014 Polar Bear Plunge to occur!



**AMERICA'S HOMETOWN HEROES**  
A Tribute to Law Enforcement

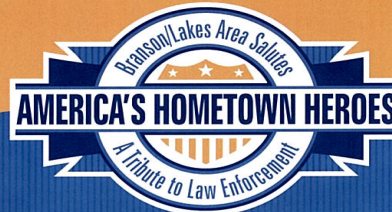
**June 13-21, 2014**  
[www.ExploreBranson.com/lawenforcement](http://www.ExploreBranson.com/lawenforcement)

★ Highlights of the Week ★

Law Enforcement Expo • Post-Certified Instruction • Bike Rally  
Parade Saluting America's Hometown Heroes  
Nationally Recognized Speakers • Family BBQ • Concert

**The whole family is welcome in BRANSON!**





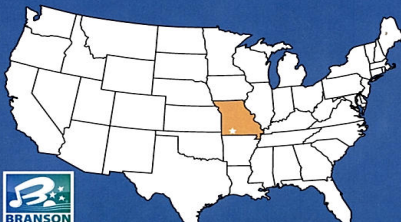

**AMERICA'S HOMETOWN HEROES**  
A Tribute to Law Enforcement

**June 13-21, 2014**  
[www.ExploreBranson.com/lawenforcement](http://www.ExploreBranson.com/lawenforcement)

★ Traveling to Branson ★

Branson is centrally located and is within a day's drive of one-third of the US population. We are located in southwest Missouri in the Ozark Mountains and surrounded by three beautiful lakes. Getting to Branson is easier than ever via the Branson Airport, served by Southwest and Frontier Airlines, and only 45 miles away is the Springfield-Branson National Airport, with Allegiant, American, Delta, Northwest and United.

Approximate Drive Times From Nearby Cities		
Kansas City	201 Miles	3 hours 44 minutes
St. Louis	253 Miles	4 hours 18 minutes
Little Rock	173 Miles	3 hours 11 minutes
Tulsa, OK	220 Miles	3 hours 32 minutes
Chicago, IL	459 Miles	9 hours 19 minutes
Dallas, TX	430 Miles	7 hours 23 minutes

Patrol employees are invited to visit Branson for this weeklong event honoring law enforcement.



# PATROL HISTORY TRIVIA

## *A Salute To Col. Lewis Ellis*

*By Specialist I Heather J. Elder, Q/CJISD*

Few men have made a more lasting impression on the state of Missouri than former Bethany resident Lewis Ellis, first superintendent of the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

His ideals are still taught and practiced each year by select men and women from across the state of Missouri, continuing a tradition of excellence that Ellis established over 80 years ago.

Each class that passes through the halls of the Missouri State Highway Patrol's Law Enforcement Academy in Jefferson City, MO, is reminded of the man whose high standards helped influence and shape Missouri's state police force.

Ellis was, in reality, the first Missouri state highway patrolman.

### **The Early Days**

T. Lewis Ellis was born in Bethany, MO, to Dr. and Mrs. Truman B. Ellis. Dr. Ellis was a pioneer physician in the small northwestern community. Ellis had one brother, Will, and two sisters, Marguerite and Edith.

Ellis attended Bethany High School and, after graduation, began work for P.G. Wightman, publisher of the *Bethany Republican-Clipper*, a weekly newspaper. Shortly after his 18th birthday, he enlisted in the Marine Corps and served for 1 1/2 years in the Marine Corps band.

Returning from service, Ellis spent several years as a journeyman printer and worked in the composing room of the *Kansas City Star* for one year before returning to Bethany. Ellis again went to work for the *Republican-Clipper*, as news editor until it was sold to E.C. Conger and Phil Bellmard in

1925. He continued as editor of the *Republican-Clipper* until it consolidated with the *Bethany Republican* in February 1929.

At that time, Ellis was appointed executive secretary to newly-elected Governor Henry S. Caulfield in 1928, and assumed the position full-time in 1929, when the governor officially took office. During this period he also served as temporary state treasurer during impeachment proceedings against the 27th State Treasurer Larry Brunk, who was later vindicated.

### **Organizing The Patrol**

During Ellis's first two years of service under Gov. Caulfield, the idea of a state police force to deal primarily with traffic concerns was growing.

Despite the fact that certain groups regarded a state law enforcement agency as a threat, the growing traffic problems could not be ignored. Already there were 80,000 motor vehicles in the Kansas City, MO, area alone, and a motorist mortality rate of 100 per year.

Public support helped push a bill creating a state police force through the legislative process. On April 24, 1931, Gov. Caulfield placed his signature on the bill. The law creating the Missouri State Highway Patrol went into effect on September 14, 1931.

Following the bill's approval, Gov. Caulfield was faced with the task of finding someone to organize and head the state's new law enforcement agency. On July 21, 1931, Caulfield assigned his executive secretary, Lewis Ellis, to the position of colonel at an annual salary of \$4,800.



**Colonel Lewis Ellis**

The Great Depression was in full swing, so funds passed through the Missouri Legislature permitted Colonel Ellis to hire only 49 troopers and six captains—all male—to enforce traffic laws in Missouri's 114 counties. As of February 1, 2014, the Patrol employed approximately 1,222 troopers—male and female.

Because of the great demand for jobs in 1931, over 5,000 applications were submitted for the first patrol positions. Col. Ellis sifted through each one on his own to find the 55 men who would become the precedential first class to go through the Missouri State Highway Patrol Academy.

One of those first men was retired Major C. Maurice Parker, who, in 1991, resided in Jefferson City. The 35-year veteran of the MSHP recalled working for Col. Ellis during the first two years of the Patrol's existence.

"Colonel Ellis was very diplomatic, and he was a gentleman," said retired Major Parker in the 1991 interview. "I don't think there is anyone in the orga-

*Continued on the next page.*

## — Trivia

*Continued from page 22.*

nization today who wouldn't agree that he was one of the most outstanding superintendents the Patrol has ever had."

During his two years as colonel, Ellis devised an organization whose basic structure has departed very little in operation over the past 83 years of service.

According to then-Lieutenant Ernest Raub, researcher on the history of the Patrol at the General Headquarters in Jefferson City, many of Col. Ellis' fundamentals are still followed today.

"There are certainly differences in 60 years of time," said Lt. Raub in 1991, "but Ellis still has quite an influence on today's organization."

Some of his early concepts still in effect include the use of the motto, "Gentlemen Who Enforce The Law," stressing the importance of courteous service and protection of the public.

"This motto is a guiding principle to all officers, men and women," said Lt. Raub.

Another of Ellis' rules of conduct still followed today concerning enforcement action states, "When In Doubt, Don't."

"This is still a basic philosophy of the Patrol," said Lt. Raub. "If a patrolman is in doubt about a situation, they don't proceed until they are sure."

Ellis' idea of an alphabetic designation of troops with a captain in charge of each troop is still a basic structure of the present Highway Patrol. Lt. Raub said the order of rank has changed, but has stayed within the first colonel's original formation. Also, the blue uniforms donned by today's troopers have strayed very little from Ellis' original design.

On May 13, 1933, newly-elected Governor Guy B. Park replaced Col. Ellis with Marvin Casteel. Ellis' services to the motor age of Missouri were not over, however.



*The Patrol's first colonel, Lewis Ellis, grew up in this home in Bethany, MO.*

### Further Contributions

On May 1, 1941, Ellis was appointed manager of the Kansas City Division of the Automobile Club of Missouri. In 1951, Brig. Gen. C.O. Thrasher named him deputy director of Civil Defense in charge of transportation. In 1958, Ellis was named vice president of the Kansas City Automobile Club.

While head of that organization, Ellis began driver's education institutes to train high school teachers to teach driving courses in public and parochial high schools. He also started an adult driver education course and a safety workshop for juvenile traffic offenders. He retired from the Automobile Club in 1962.

In May 1963, Ellis suffered a heart attack and died at his home in Kansas City. Funeral services were held at the Freeman Chapel in Kansas City, with members of the Patrol serving as pallbearers. Survivors included his wife, Jeanne E. Ellis; a daughter, Katherine; and two sisters. Ellis had another daughter, Barbara Ann, who was not mentioned in his obituary.

### Remembering The Man

Although he was widely respected for his work with the Kansas City Automobile Club, Ellis was probably most remembered for his organization of the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

An excerpt from his obituary in the May 17, 1963 issue of the *Kansas City Star* read:

"It was a remarkable job that Colonel Ellis did in a most difficult time... He built the Patrol on a firm foundation. He set high standards and insisted they be maintained during the two years he headed the Patrol. He instilled in his men a feeling of esprit de corps that lives in the Patrol to this very day."

The work that Colonel Ellis started has been carried on by succeeding Highway Patrol superintendents. The Patrol has grown greatly in size, and it has grown even more in prestige and accomplishment.

The Missouri State Highway Patrol is a monument to Colonel Lewis Ellis ... It is indeed a great monument that will carry on the memory of the talented and courageous Colonel Lewis Ellis.

*(This article, written by Heather Newman-Elder, originally appeared in The Bethany Republican-Clipper, Phil Conger, managing editor, in 1991. It has been updated and reprinted with permission. Capt. Ernie Raub has retired since giving the interview that assisted in the writing of this story. Retired Major C. Maurice Parker died March 12, 1995.)*



# Major Tommy E. Roam Retires

By Public Info. Spec. III Cheryl D. Cobb, Q/PIED

"I'm just me."

That's how Major Tommy E. Roam responded when I expressed my appreciation for his granting the interview. It was a standard, humble, Tommy response. We talked and laughed for the next 90 minutes about family, future plans, and a career spanning 33 years for two of Missouri's state law enforcement agencies.

"It's been a great time," said Tommy. "When I first started, I never ever dreamed I would make it to retirement. But, here I am."

Tommy began his career with the Missouri State Water Patrol on January 12, 1981, as a member of the 19th Water Patrol Academy.

"I had applied to both the Missouri State Water Patrol and the Missouri State Highway Patrol," explained Tommy. "The Water Patrol letter came first—the Highway Patrol letter came three days later." He said the Highway Patrol's recruit class began a few days prior to the Water Patrol Academy. "I think they didn't want to scream at both classes at the same time," he said, laughing. Both took place at the Patrol's Law Enforcement Academy at General Headquarters in Jefferson City, MO.

"We began just like every other trooper, running up those silly steps, getting screamed at the entire way," said Tommy. "And, no matter what you did, it was wrong. The second night I was here, I went into our room and I had no bed. I finally found my mattress

near one of the closets in the basement of the dorm. It didn't help that one of my best friends was one of our training instructors. He wasn't colonel then, he was just Rad [Talbut]. He and his brother, [Lieutenant] Wayne, have been friends since college."

"I was in great shape when I went into the Academy, so it wasn't as hard (physically) for me as it was for some of the other people. I was straight out of college, so I was younger—the youngest in the class," said Tommy. "I was never going to be the fastest runner, but I was a very good swimmer."

The Water Patrol's 19th class included only 11 people. That was a large class for the agency, which only had 59 members at the time. His first assignment was Pomme de Terre Lake. It started with a bang.

"My very first day, I was on the water," said Tommy. "I'd been on the water maybe two hours when I witnessed my first accident." Tommy said a jet boat—18-foot long, low riding, sleek—came around a corner fast. He could see what was going to happen before it did. The wind lifted the jet boat, which then capsized.

"When we got there, there were three people in the water. I thought one was dead, because he was face down in the water. There was one guy swimming and a pregnant lady. My first thought was if I got her into the boat she'd have that baby before I got her to the ambulance." Tommy said all three people were pulled into the Wa-



Major Tommy E. Roam

ter Patrol boat. "The guy floating face down started breathing once we got him in the boat. Had we not been right there, there would have been at least two fatalities. Afterward, I thought *they didn't say anything about that in the 'be all you can be' commercials*. We got the lady to the ambulance before she had the baby, but she had the baby before she got to the hospital." Tommy said he wondered if his work day would always be like that. They assured me that it wasn't.

In 1984, Tommy was assigned to the Water Patrol Dive Team. "They put me on the Dive Team, and I took to it," he said. "I loved it. It was the most fun I ever had working ... even though we were doing things that were horrible. I'll never forget all the little kids I pulled off the bottom of the lake. More than once, I had to pull up a little kid who was the size of my daughter at that time. Afterward, that was all you could think about. I'd go home [and hug her] and she'd wonder, 'Why is he suffocating me?'"

Tommy said he was proud to be part of the Dive Team and then gave credit to the current group of divers. "They are so far ahead of where we were when I was on the team. I couldn't be prouder of the team and how it's progressed over the years. They have better training, better equipment, and better procedures now."

*Continued on the next page.*

# — Roam

*Continued from page 24.*

The flood in 1993 kept the Water Patrol Dive Team busy. The team's work was noticed and appreciated by those assisted and by Governor Mel Carnahan, who presented them with a Governor's Award for Quality and Productivity. Specifically, the award mentioned the team's work recovering caskets from the Hardin Cemetery; repairing a levy breach near American Cyanamid in Hannibal, MO, which prevented the water supply from being contaminated from Hannibal to the Gulf of Mexico; and turning off a valve in Slater, MO, which returned that town's water supply.

"Jim Foster and I kind of had our own Air Force, because the bridges were out," said Tommy. "Lt. Bill Cottom (MSHP, retired) was flying us in the Queen Air."

Tommy said at the chemical plant, Foster told him to go find the breach. "I found it," said Tommy. "I got sucked into a hole in the levy. It was big enough for me to get in and then become lodged in it. I thought I was going to die there. Eventually, a fin got sucked off, which freed my foot, and I could pull myself out of the hole. That was another piece of equipment I'd lost in a dive. The guys on the Dive Team teased me a lot because it seemed I was always losing something."

On May 1, 1994, Tommy was promoted to corporal and assigned to the Equipment & Supply Section at the Water Patrol's General Headquarters. He's lived in Jefferson City since that time. He was promoted to sergeant on February 1, 1999, while in the same position. When Tommy became a captain, on September 1, 2004, lieutenants didn't exist on the Water Patrol. On December 1, 2005, Tommy was promoted to major and named commander of Administrative Services for the Water Patrol. In this capacity, he oversaw all functions except field operations.

"I feel like that was the job where I had the most impact—when I was over legislation and budget," said Tommy. "The things I did there ... I could see

that it did have an impact on the lives of the employees directly."

In 2010, Governor Jay Nixon announced that the Missouri State Water Patrol would merge into the Missouri State Highway Patrol. The merger officially took place on January 1, 2011. So, 30 years after receiving the letter, Major Tommy Roam would join the Missouri State Highway Patrol. He said, initially, he was surprised by the news. More than once in the Water Patrol's history the idea of a merge had come up, but it had never been acted upon.

However, after his initial surprise, he felt it would be beneficial to the younger officers and give them more opportunities. He also recognized that the merger would be easier for the younger members of the Water Patrol than the more seasoned veterans. "After all," said Tommy, "there would be some people who don't like the idea of merging an agency that is 50 years old into another agency. Change isn't always easy and some people don't like change."

Tommy said Colonel Ron Replogle called him and invited him to be part of the Missouri State Highway Patrol's command staff. He remained a major and was tasked with being director of the newly created Water Patrol Division.

"The staff has been gracious to me, and I've been grateful for that," said Tommy. "I hope that I brought something beneficial to the table when we merged. In every phase of my career, each time I was promoted, I am sure there were people who were as skilled as or more so than I. For whatever reason, God allowed me to progress."

It's been three years now since the Missouri State Highway Patrol has been tasked with marine operations for the state. Tommy said when he decided to retire that it dawned on him that he had done everything he possibly could to make the merger happen. "Once that was complete, there wasn't much more for me to do. That's when I notified the colonel I was going to retire."

"Tommy was a great addition to staff. We certainly needed his expertise as we worked through the merger issues," said Col. Replogle. "The great success that we have experienced thus far is directly attributed to his leadership. He will be missed."

Over the years, Tommy connected with whomever he came into contact. Longtime friend and co-worker, retired Lt. Ralph Bledsoe, had this to say, *"The first time I met Thomas 'Tommy' Roam was when I was in field training for the Water Patrol on Pomme De Terre Lake. I was his ride-along rookie trying to learn the vast intricacies of the infamous District 1. From our very first meeting, Tommy was very warm and encouraging, so the bonds of friendship were forged almost immediately. He had an enthusiastic and professional approach to his work, but was always gracious and kind when dealing with the public. He had then and still does today possess an inner strength and integrity that comes from being a man of faith. In my opinion, it was his unwavering faith in his God that catapulted him to achieve the illustrious and rewarding career in law enforcement that we are now celebrating."*

*The faith that he practiced on the job was the very same creed he lived every day in his personal life. I admired his boldness and candor when it came to issues of faith. He did, however, have one weakness that followed him throughout his career ... one that many of us who were close to him exploited. The one weakness that afforded us hours of entertainment was his gullibility. Tommy was always an easy target for a prankster (such as myself) because he never seemed to "see it coming," nor did he have a rebuttal. Fortunately for us, he took the teasing in stride with an appropriate amount of grace and goodwill toward his persecutors knowing that it was done in good fun. We never meant to do harm to him—it was our weird way of showing him how much we really respected him.*

*What can you say about a man whose service to the state of Missouri spanned 33 years encompassing all the duties and responsibilities of a greenhorn recruit to a highly respected Field Operations major. It is not by blind luck that*

*Continued on the next page.*



## — Roam

*Continued from page 25.*

*this phenomenal accomplishment happens. A man must work hard at developing and maintaining a stellar character. He must personify professionalism and vision in every action that he takes and every decision he makes. He must balance the tasks asked of him in the arena of law enforcement with a genuine love of service to people and the organization he represents. In short, he must always strive to be the best he can possibly be just because it is the right thing to do.*

*I feel that Tommy has met and far surpassed the criteria that I have mentioned. It is hard to describe someone in mere words, but if I were to pick only three words to characterize Tommy's career and life they would be: Faith – Honor – Integrity. I am proud to say that Thomas "Tommy" Roam is my friend and my brother. The time passes so quickly, especially when you thoroughly enjoy what you are doing. May your retirement be just as rewarding and fulfilling as the past 33 years have been. God bless you and just as in the song 'Born to be Wild,' it's time to 'Get your motor runnin'.'"*

So, now that his retirement is here, what's next for Tommy?

"I'm going to try retirement," said Tommy with a laugh. "I don't know if I'll like it. If I do, great. I love to travel. My parents and grandparents loved to travel, and I certainly have that gene. I travel with my friends on our motorcycles. But, I really like traveling with Wanda. I want to do things with her. Wanda retired 10 years ago after the governor offered a special retirement package. She was an investigator for the Department of Corrections."

*"I know that Tommy is excited about this new phase of his life, but it is mingled with a bit of bittersweet uncertainty as well," said his wife, Wanda. "I have been retired for 10 years already and have loved every minute of it because my heart was always to be at home. For men it seems their identity is more closely tied to their work. This is the way God has created us, and I know He knows what He is doing. We, however, seem to take some time to get on the same page with Him. This will definitely be a period of adjustment for both of us, but it also*

*opens up so many opportunities we have not had before.*

*With the purchase of his new Harley motorcycle, I know he will be at the computer planning out trip routes, so the gang needs to get their leave time and/or permission slips signed! I also look forward to spending time with our grandchildren and making some special memories before they get too old to be with the uncool old timers. Please include us in your prayers, for we both do covet them, as we turn this corner in our lives together to see where the Lord will take us."*

Tommy said if he doesn't enjoy full-time retirement he'll look for something to do part-time.

"Being a member of the Patrol—both highway and water—has giv-

en me the opportunity to do things I wouldn't have been able to do otherwise. I've been to other countries and all parts of the United States. Had I stayed where I grew up, I would have never had the chance to do those things."

Congratulations on your retirement, sir! Thank you for your dedicated service to the citizens of this great state ... and, thank you for being "just you."

*[Tommy grew up near Plato, MO, where he graduated from high school in 1978. He attended College of the Ozarks in Point Lookout, MO, where he majored in criminal justice. He and his wife, Wanda (Bacon), have three children, Nancy Burns, David Burns, and Caitlin Roam. They have three grandsons, Anthony, Joshua, and Jacob Burns, and a granddaughter, Elli Brandt.]*

## Retiree News

### Community Recognizes Dingmans



*Photo by Paul Ward/The Aurora Advertiser*

Co-recipients Mrs. Judy and Mr. Ed Dingman, a retired trooper (center), each accepted the Community Service Award at the annual Aurora Area Chamber of Commerce Appreciation Banquet on January 25. Mr. Kyle Wilson (left), president of the chamber, presented the award to the couple. Senator David Sater (right) presented the couple with a resolution from the Missouri Senate in honor of the award. The award is the highest honor the chamber presents at its annual banquet.

# *Tribute To*

## **Major Tommy E. Roam**

*By Ret. MSWP Colonel Rad Talburt*

I have known Tommy since we attended college together at College of the Ozarks. We were good friends and ran around together. I left college before Tommy and was hired by the Missouri State Water Patrol in 1980. I told Tommy how good a job it was and the very next year Tommy was accepted by the Water Patrol where we both made a career.

Tommy wore many hats while in the Water Patrol. He was on the Dive Team and risked his life many times while diving in dangerous situations. Most of the dives that a Water Patrol diver would encounter were black water diving. What I mean by that is you cannot see anything while diving. You can put your hand on your mask and not see it. You are just feeling your way along looking for bodies, murder weapons, stolen goods, or other numerous items. Tommy was also

a specialist instructor for the Water Patrol and trained recruits and officers alike.

Tommy later took a promotion as equipment officer and moved to Jefferson City where he served for most of his career. While there, he was promoted from corporal all the way to major.

The last four years of my career I served as colonel of the Water Patrol under Governor Matt Blunt. During my tenure as colonel of the Water Patrol, I couldn't have accomplished what I did without Tommy's expertise. We passed four major bills through the legislature, one of which created the Water Patrol Safety Fund and gave pay parity to the Water Patrol. This brought the Water Patrol salaries up to match pay with other major law enforcement agencies. We passed House Bill No. 1715, which brought our Boating While Intoxicated Law up to comparison to the highway laws, lowering alcohol influence operation from .10 to

.08, and cleaning up many boating laws to make the waterways safer. When I took office we were directed by DPS Director Mark James to become CALEA certified. Tommy took on this task and accomplished it. No marine agency in the United States had gone through CALEA before. The Missouri State Water Patrol was the first marine enforcement agency that became accredited.

Tommy had a great career with the Water Patrol. Officers looked up to him. He always had an open door policy and you could walk in to his office and talk with him about anything. Officers knew he could be trusted and if he had the ability to help them, he would.

I cannot say enough about Tommy and his accomplishments with the Water Patrol and now the Highway Patrol. He was a pleasure to work with. Trustworthy. Prompt. Knowledgeable. But, most of all, a lifelong friend.

Tommy's greatest accomplishment was his family life. He has a wonderful wife named Wanda. (I believe he "really married up.") His home life and Christian life is one to be admired. I wish Wanda and Tommy the very best in their retirement.

## *Thank You Very Much!*

The Missouri State Troopers Association presented plaques to (l) Capt. Larry Plunkett Jr., Q/CJISD, and Lt. Col. Sandra K. Karsten, Q/ASO, as an expression of appreciation for their service to the insurance committee. Lt. Col. Karsten has served on the Medical Insurance Board since 2005 and will continue in that capacity until 2016. She recently served as advisor to a special committee reviewing possible changes in the medical plan. Capt. Plunkett was part of the special committee. The plaque indicated MOSTA appreciated their "work and efforts in furthering the MOSTA mission."





# Retirement

## Lt. Steven B. Niederkorn



After more than 35 years of dedicated service with the Missouri State Highway Patrol and over 38 years in law enforcement in Southeast Missouri, Lieutenant Steven B. Niederkorn retired effective February 1, 2014.

Steve was born in Chicago, IL, grew up in New Hamburg, MO, and attended Kelly High School in Benton, MO. He graduated from Southeast Missouri State University with a bachelor's of science degree in management in 1976. While in college, he was hired by Scott County Sheriff John Dennis as a dispatcher and later a deputy sheriff.

Steve was hired by the Patrol on July 5, 1978, as a commercial vehicle inspector at Charleston, MO. He was appointed to the Patrol on January 5, 1981, as a member of the 54th Recruit Class. Upon graduating number one in his class of 34 officers, he was assigned to Troop E, Zone 6, Dunklin County (Malden, MO). On March 26, 1983, he married Theresa (Terry) Beck Coomer and moved to Kennett, MO. On September 1, 1990, he was promoted to corporal and designated the assistant zone commander of Dunklin County, now known as Zone 10.

His promotion to sergeant came on April 1, 1995, and he was desig-

nated zone commander of Zone 2, which included Butler, Ripley, and part of Wayne Counties. With the promotion to zone commander came a move to Troop E Headquarters in Poplar Bluff, MO, where he and Terry still reside. On September 28, 2003, he was promoted to his current rank of lieutenant.

While a lieutenant, he was given various duties that included west side enforcement and special services. After staff realignment, he was placed in charge of District One, the position he currently holds. Over the years, he has been assigned to numerous manhunts and major case squad activations, several presidential details, the papal detail, the National Governors' Conference, the Patrol's first Strategic Planning Committee, the Missouri State Fair detail, and several governors' inaugurations. He was also tasked with helping implement a Community Oriented Policing program in a troubled area of Poplar Bluff. This included making a presentation of Poplar Bluff's successful program at the International Community Oriented Policing conference in Chicago, IL.

Steve is currently a member of the Poplar Bluff Elks Lodge #2452 and Knights of Columbus Council # 1706. He and Terry are parishioners of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Poplar Bluff. Steve is a former charter member of the New Hamburg Jaycees and the Kennett Optimist Club. He belongs to, and is a former board member of, Westwood Hills Country Club in Poplar Bluff.

Steve and Terry Niederkorn have one daughter, Lorie Coomer Veazey. Lorie and her husband, Matt, reside in Searcy, AR. Their twin four-year-old grandchildren are Charlie and Maggie Veazey. Steve looks forward to being able to spend more time with family and play lots of golf. He and Terry also plan to do a lot of traveling.

## Chief Oper. Roger M. Heard



After 33 years and five months of service, Chief Operator Roger M. Heard retired from the Missouri State Highway Patrol on February 1, 2014. Roger began his career with the Patrol on September 1, 1980, as a probationary radio operator. He was promoted in 1989 to Troop H trainer. On February 1, 1992, Roger was promoted to chief operator of Troop H.

"Early in my career, radio was a very different place than what it is today. We logged using a manual typewriter and we also copied reports from the field on 3x5 index cards with carbon paper to create duplicates," said Roger. "The radio console was hand built using manual switches, telephone-type relays, and tube speech amplifiers. Any computer check was typed on the typewriter, then typed again into the MULES computer. The patrol car radios were four channels."

Roger's interest in the Patrol began in grade school, when a schoolmate's father happened to be the Troop H chief radio operator. When Roger saw Chief Operator J.G. Bates in his uniform and learned about his work, he was impressed. Prior to his employment with the Patrol, Roger worked for the local radio station in St. Joseph where he was a reporter and, later, chief engineer. When Roger

*Continued on the next page.*

# Retirement

## —Heard

*Continued from page 28.*

would call Troop H and request news information, he was impressed by the professionalism of the troopers with whom he spoke. All of those contacts with Patrol employees led Roger to set his career path.

After asking Roger why he has enjoyed his career, he stated, "I guess I am doing the job I was intended to have, because every day coming to work is a pleasure. I get paid a nice salary to come to work every day and talk on the radio to my friends. The work we all do is important and it is a privilege to be part of it."

One other service Roger is known for is playing bagpipes as a part of the Buchanan Highlanders Pipe Band. He has played the bagpipes at almost all of the Patrol line-of-duty funerals since 1998. In May 2012, Roger's musical talent took him to the Law Enforcement Officers' National Memorial in Washington, D.C. He also plays at the annual Patrol Awards Ceremony & The MASTERS' Banquet. Roger says it has been a true honor to be a part of those assignments.

Roger and his wife, Connie, have been married for 39 years. The couple has three children, Adam who is deceased, Katie Schweder, and Lane. There are two grandchildren, Kylee and Liam.

Roger and Connie plan to travel, ride their Harley, and spend more time with the grandkids. Roger will continue spending time with his hobbies of ham radio, flying single engine aircraft, and playing the bagpipes.

All of the Troop H employees want to wish Roger and Connie the very best retirement possible. It looks like the Heards will be very busy.

## Chief DE Nancy Gottman



On February 1, 2014, Troop B Chief Driver Examiner Nancy Gottman retired after serving with the Missouri State Highway Patrol for over 25 years. Chief Gottman began her career with the Patrol on April 25, 1988, as a full-time Troop C driver examiner clerk. In July 1988, she was reclassified as a Troop C driver examiner. In June 1989, she transferred to Troop B and was assigned to work with the Macon driver examination crew. She was promoted to driver examiner supervisor on May 1, 1998; and to chief driver examiner on December 16, 2012.

Nancy is a native of Richmond, IN, and graduated from Richmond Senior High School. She attended the University of Denver, in Denver, CO, where she took general education courses. She is married to David, who served with the Patrol for about 13 years in Troop C and Troop B, as a motor vehicle inspector and a commercial motor vehicle inspector. They have two grown children: Judi, of Bethlehem, GA; and Dave, of Macon, MO. They also have five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Nancy said she became interested in working for the Patrol when her husband worked at Troop C. There was a full-time driver examination clerk opening and she thought it seemed like a very interesting job. She

said her favorite part of her job has always been the interaction with the public and meeting some very interesting people. She said over the years she has seen a great deal of changes within the Patrol, but more specifically within the Driver Examination Division. Of those changes, the biggest have been the addition of commercial driver license testing, and that now everything is computerized. One of her most memorable opportunities was when she worked with the community of Milan, MO, assisting residents of many different nationalities.

Nancy says her plans after retirement are many, but the most noteworthy are helping her husband with his ministry at the La Plata Baptist Church, and spending more time with her family. She is excited to have the opportunity to get to visit her daughter more in Georgia.

Nancy is known by all who have worked with her to be a very caring and cheerful person, and one who always went the extra mile to answer a question or provide assistance to the public. Troop B personnel would like to congratulate Nancy on her retirement and wish her the best!!

## May

**May 3**



**May 8**



**May 17**



**May 22**



**May 26**

**Missouri Law Enforcement Memorial** service takes place.

**Truman's** birthday.  
**Sgt. D.C. May** died in 1999.

**Tpr. M.L. Newton** died in 2003.

**Memorial Day**



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# *Congratulations On Your Retirement!*

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**Tom L. Davis**  
**CVE Inspector III**  
**Troop A**

*Retired January 1, 2014.  
Nine years, eight months of  
dedicated service.*



**Charlie E. Dreppard**  
**Driver Examiner III**  
**Troop C**

*Retired January 1, 2014.  
Six years, 11 months of dedicated  
service.*

**Mark D. Harwell**  
**Lieutenant**  
**Troop H**

*Retired January 1, 2014.  
32 years, 11 months of dedicated  
service.*



**Terry R. Spain**  
**Sergeant**  
**Q/GD**

*Retired January 1, 2014.  
28 years of dedicated service.*



**Harold D. Crowley**  
**CVE Inspector Sprv. II**  
**Troop A**

*Retired February 1, 2014.  
34 years of dedicated service.*



**Martha J. Sims**  
**Driver Examiner III**  
**Troop G**

*Retired February 1, 2014.  
Six years, 10 months of dedicated  
service.*



# Truck Hauls More Than Cars

*By MVI III Charles G. McMillan, Troop D*

Have you noticed that almost all of the stories written about people being caught with controlled substances told that initially, those same people were breaking a traffic law?

Sgt. Matt K. Funderburk, Troop D, was parked in the crossover observing traffic on Interstate 44 west of U.S. Highway 65 in Greene County. He saw a black car hauler traveling east-bound in the driving lane following too closely to the passenger car in front of him. He pulled out and closed the distance quickly, then simply watched for a while. He observed that the car hauler continued to follow at an unsafe distance.

Sgt. Funderburk initiated a traffic stop on I-44 near Missouri Route 744. He made contact with the driver and told him why he had stopped him. The driver indicated a co-driver was sleeping in the sleeper. When requested, he presented his license and registration, permits, logbook, and shipping papers for the vehicles on the trailer. Sgt. Funderburk took the documents back to his patrol vehicle to inspect them.

He noticed that one bill for a 2003 Honda Pilot was suspicious in that the weight of the Honda was handwritten on the bills for 4,450 pounds, which is heavy. In addition, the bill listed a cost of \$1,100 to ship it—more than any other vehicle on the trailer. At this point, Sgt. Funderburk contacted Sgt. Gary L. Braden, Troop D, and asked him to respond to his location.

Sgt. Funderburk asked the driver for and received permission to search the Honda. Sgt. Braden had arrived when the driver unlocked the Honda and helped with the search of the vehicle. While searching the Honda, they found loose sheet metal screws in the center console, and saw nuts were missing from the back seat along the floor. Trim pieces which had been broken were laid back into place, but you could see the break.

Sgt. Funderburk lifted up the carpet in the rear cargo area under the



*A Honda's bumper proved to be a hiding place for illegal drugs.*



*Sgt. Funderburk seized these 30 kilos of cocaine after a traffic stop.*

seats and saw non-factory sheet metal for the floor. This sheet metal had been tack welded around the chair mounting brackets.

When he looked underneath the vehicle, he saw an open seam, and within the seam, he saw two vacuum-sealed bundles.

Sgt. Funderburk instructed the driver to follow him to Troop D Headquarters for further investigation.

The Honda's rear bumper was removed and the bundles of white powder were removed and tested. The results were positive for cocaine ... 30 kilos!

*Great work, Sgt. Funderburk!*

“A leader ... is like a shepherd. He stays behind the flock, letting the most nimble go out ahead, whereupon the others follow, not realizing that all along they are being directed from behind.”

— Nelson Mandela



# Deaths

## Franklin E. Burg

Frank E. Burg, 74, of Springville, TN, died at his home on November 25, 2013.

Frank joined the Patrol on January 31, 1968. He entered the Patrol's Law Enforcement Academy as a member of the 35th Recruit Class on February 4, 1968. He began his career in Troop C, St. Charles and Warren counties. He was assigned to the Lincoln University riots in 1969. Frank transferred to Troop E, Bolinger County, in 1975, and to Caruthersville, MO, in 1979. He was promoted to corporal in 1986. He was promoted to sergeant and designated zone commander in Troop E, Kennett, MO, in 1990. In 1992, he transferred to Troop E Headquarters in Poplar Bluff, MO, to serve as a desk sergeant. Frank accepted a Lifesaving Award at the Patrol's Annual Award Ceremony & The MASTERS Banquet in May 1994. After 26 years of dedicated service, Frank retired on June 1, 1994.

After retirement, Frank and his wife, Glenda, settled in Springville, TN, on Kentucky Lake, where Frank loved to fish.

Survivors include his wife, Glenda; five children: Debbie (and her husband, Jerry) Prsha of Ballwin, MO, Tim Burg, of Paris, TN, Angela (and her husband, Kevin) Carroll of Paris, TN, and Brianna Burg and Ashleigh Burg, both of Springville, TN; and one granddaughter, Rachel Prsha, of Ballwin.

The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Burg family.

## Did You Know?

In 2013, the employees of the Patrol raised \$92,814.80 for Special Olympics.

## Otis R. Boyd



Otis R. Boyd is resting in peace. He was the beloved husband of Patsy (Wulfmeier) Boyd for 64 years. Ray was the dear son of the late Otis and LouWillie Boyd of McLemoresville, TN. He was the loving father of Steven Paul Boyd and Bradley Ray Boyd (and his wife, Melissa), and the cherished grandfather of Delayne Jeanne Boyd.

Ray was a brother, brother-in-law, uncle, great-uncle, cousin, and friend to many.

Ray was a decorated WWII veteran, serving in the Army Air Corps as a battlefield surgical tech at Normandy Beach and throughout the European Theater.

Ray served as a state trooper for the Missouri State Highway Patrol, and was assigned to Troop C for 30 years. He was a member of Maplewood Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

A funeral service took place on Tuesday, February 4, 2014, at Jay B. Smith Funeral Home in Maplewood, MO. Burial took place at St. Marcus Cemetery.

The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Boyd family.

*(Reprinted with permission from the Jay B. Smith Funeral Home in Maplewood, MO.)*

## Derin M. Holterman



Derin M. Holterman, of Freeburg, MO, was born on May 29, 1982, in Jefferson City, a son of Alex Joseph and Mary Frances (Mengwasser) Holterman. He departed this life on Sunday, March 2, 2014, at his residence. Derin had attained the age of 31 years, nine months, and four days.

He was a member of the Holy Family Catholic Church, Freeburg; a graduate of the Holy Family School, Freeburg; and a 2000 graduate of the Fatima High School, Westphalia, MO. Following high school, Derin attended the Linn State Technical College and graduated from there in 2002 with a degree in auto mechanics, and in 2003 with a degree in auto collision. He had taken advanced training classes located in South Carolina and Las Vegas, NV, for airbrushing techniques and had become highly skilled in his ability to paint or decorate using an airbrush. Derin had competed on the national level with his skills at the Auto Collision Restoration for National Skills U.S.A. where he earned eighth place in the nation. He was also a member of the advisory committee for the Nichols Career Center, Jefferson City.

Derin was employed by the Missouri State Highway Patrol, assigned to Fleet and Facilities Division, General Headquarters, Jefferson City, for the past 10 years as an automotive technician. He was involved in the care

*Continued on the next page.*

## – Holterman

*Continued from page 32.*

and maintenance of all the patrol vehicles throughout the state of Missouri. In addition to auto restoration, painting cars, and airbrushing, Derin especially enjoyed hunting, fishing, playing cards, bailing hay, and driving the Ford 5000 Tractor.

Those left to mourn the passing of Derin include: his parents, Alex and Mary Holterman, Freeburg; his brother, Ethan Holterman, Freeburg; his sister, Jenna Holterman, Freeburg; paternal grandmother, Donna Holterman, Freeburg; special friend and her daughter, Alicia Kemp and Halle Poling, Eldon, MO; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Visitation for Derin took place on Thursday, March 6, 2014, with a prayer service at 7 p.m.. A second visitation occurred on Friday, March 7, 2014, prior to a mass of Christian burial in the Holy Family Catholic Church, Freeburg. The Rev. Nicholas J. Reid officiated.

Derin's family suggests memorial contributions marked "for masses" or "per the wishes of the family." Envelopes are available at the Holy Family Catholic Church, in Freeburg, or the Vienna Office of the Birmingham-Martin Funeral Homes.

The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Holterman family.

*(Reprinted with permission from Birmingham-Martin Funeral Homes.)*

# Looking Back ... in the Patrol News

## 45 years ago

*March 1969* — Officers broke up large scale commercial auto theft ring operating in South St. Louis, St. Louis County, and Jefferson County, and recovered 37 stolen vehicles. Troop D reported that Mr. Robert Sattler from the National Auto Theft Bureau presented an informative Auto Theft Seminar at the troop headquarters.

## 35 years ago

*April 1979* — Trooper M.H. Poe, Troop D, reported he'd arrested a man for driving while intoxicated at the scene of an injury traffic crash. When advised he was being arrested, the driver began to cry, and said he was worried about what his dad was going to say. It is interesting to note that the driver was 70 years old ... and he was worried about his 90-year-old dad's reaction.

## 25 years ago

*March 1989* — An article provided information about the Patrol's ECCO seizures the previous year. In 1988, members of the Highway Patrol seized 11,802 pounds of marijuana, 1,481 pounds of cocaine, six pounds of methamphetamine, one pound of heroin, and 85 pounds of miscellaneous drugs. That same year, officers made 1,126 arrests and confiscated 117 vehicles, 230 weapons, and nearly \$2 million in currency.

## 15 years ago

*April 1999* — A story recounted how GHQ employees held a competition to send an employee to the Polar Bear Plunge. Before the competition ended, all five nominated employees committed to plunging and \$1,040.35 was raised for a great cause!

## 5 years ago

*March/April 2009* — It was reported that commercial vehicle enforcement troopers—Trooper Benjamin C. Jones and Corporal Douglas M. McDaniel, Troop E—seized \$1,523,280 at a traffic stop after the commercial vehicle driver admitted it was "dope money."

## Come Ride The "Wild West Polar Express!"



*Polar Bear Plunge events took place throughout the state this past winter. Clerk IV Carla J. Flickinger (sombbrero), Q/MVI, and Chief Oper. Roger D. Martin (cowboy hat), Q/ICTD, plunged at the Lake of the Ozarks as part of "The Wild West Polar Express" team. Friends and family made up the rest of the team. The group accepted a Golden Plunger award for best team costumes (third place) in the Law Enforcement category.*



*Clerk IV Carla J. Flickinger, Q/MVID, takes the plunge for Special Olympics Missouri. The outside temperature was 59 degrees; however, the water temperature was only 34 degrees! This plunge took place at Public Beach #2 on February 22, 2014. There were 654 brave souls that plunged into the frigid water. Collectively, they raised \$208,000!*



# ~ Thank You ~

When Molly, Jeremy, and I were making arrangements for Scotty, I had stated our immediate family was very small. I underestimated our extended family. We are overwhelmed with the many, many acts of kindness extended to us. The visits, calls, prayers, and memorials are such a great tribute to Scott. No words are adequate to express our sincere gratitude.

*Thank you and may God bless.  
Chief DE Dena R. Geist, Troop F*

• • •

My family and I would like to express our appreciation and gratitude to Captain Ron S. Johnson and Troop

C employees for all your prayers and well wishes during the last several years as my husband dealt with kidney disease. His story has a successful ending with a new kidney and a new life. We received tremendous support from our Patrol family. We are very fortunate that I am employed by such a caring organization. Thank you for all you have done for us. May God bless all of you in this New Year.

*DE III Chris M. Stefanus, Troop C*

• • •

On behalf of the Reinsch family, I would like express our sincerest thanks to everyone in the Patrol who came to my mother's visitation,

attended the funeral, sent a card, or offered prayers. Everyone's thoughtfulness and kind words were greatly appreciated.

*Sgt. Paul J. Reinsch, Troop F*

• • •

On the behalf of the family of Marcella 'Sally' Herigon, we would like to thank those for their support through cards, prayers, condolences, help, and friendship. We would also like to thank those who were able to attend the visitation and funeral mass for our mother. Your thoughtfulness and support was greatly appreciated.

*CITS II Charlie M. Herigon,  
Q/ICTD,  
Clerk III Jeff A. Herigon, Q/BPD,  
Typist Pat M. Luebbering, Q/TFD,  
Retired Cook III Pat J. Herigon,  
& families.*

## Sympathy

*Our deepest sympathy goes to the following personnel who have lost a member of their family:*

Tpr. Derek A. Mason (C) - father  
Comm. Oper. III Jeremy L.  
MacDonnell (D) - mother  
Admin. Office Support Asst. Jill E.  
Speckhals (Q/GD) - mother  
DE II K. Susie Gosney (B) - father  
Tpr. Zachary D. Bauer (C) -  
grandfather  
Sgt. Dave C. Bauer (Q/DDCC) -  
father-in-law  
CDL Exam. Auditor Nikki J. Ginel (D)  
- mother  
Tpr. Mike W. Lee (D) - father  
Bldg. & Grnds. Maint. II Kyle M. Doll  
(F) - grandmother-in-law  
CVO II Louis G. McReynolds (D) - son  
CITS I Bob A. Wieberg (Q/ICTD) -  
mother  
CIT III Kevin T. Thurman (Q/ICTD) -  
grandmother  
DE III Joe J. Williams (C) - aunt  
DE Sprv. Karen R. Smith (C) -  
grandmother  
DE II Dustin A. Boggs (F) -  
grandmother-in-law

DE I Faron S. Michaels (B) - brother-  
in-law  
Cpl. Maurice E. Benzie (Q/GD) - father  
MVI III Nathan L. Winkler (B) -  
grandmother  
CITS II Charlie M. Herigon (Q/ICTD)  
- mother  
Ret. Cook III Pat J. Herigon - mother-  
in-law  
Clerk III Jeff A. Herigon (Q/BPD) -  
mother  
Chief DE Dena R. Geist (F) - husband  
Comm. Oper. II Tammy M. Christoffer  
(B) - grandmother  
Tpr. Nick A. Smith (I) - brother  
Ret. Sgt. Harvey R. Harris - wife  
Ret. Sgt. Bob P. Eddleman - brother  
Asst. Chief Oper. Teresa J. Taylor (D) -  
stepmother  
Bldg. & Grnds. Maint. II Dan A. Jansen  
(Q/FFD) - grandmother  
Auto. Tech. II Curtis P. Jansen  
(Q/FFD) - grandmother  
Sgt. Paul J. Reinsch (F) - mother

Crim. Intel. Analyst II Doug S.  
Middleton (Q/MIAC) - mother  
DE Sprv. Debbie D. Pitts (G) -  
mother  
Sgt. Jerry L. Arnold (F) - mother-in-  
law  
Ret. Capt. Clarence A. Greeno -  
mother  
Technician I Leamon E. Crafton  
(Q/CJISD) - grandmother  
Lt. Mike R. Pulliam (E) - mother-in-  
law  
Ret. Sgt. Ralph W. Robinett - brother  
Ret. CIT III Jerry L. Robinett -  
brother  
Ret. ACTE Jim D. Ferry - mother  
Tpr. Barb M. Littrell (B) - mother-  
in-law  
CIT III Seth J. Veit (Q/ICTD) -  
grandfather  
Cpl. Andy L. Bryan (B) -  
grandmother  
Ret. Capt. Robert E. Searcy - mother

**Come join  
in the FUN!**

**43<sup>rd</sup>  
Annual**

**Two-Person Scramble Golf Tournament**  
**Missouri State Highway Patrol Employees and Retirees**

**Redfield Golf Course — Eugene, MO**  
**Monday, June 2, 2014**

**LOCATION**

Redfield Golf Course  
Eugene, MO

U.S. Highway 54 at Missouri  
Highway 17

15 miles south of Jefferson City

**AREA MOTEL**

Jefferson City, MO

• Best Western (573) 635-4175

\*Event group rate available\*

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

Check-in 7 to 8 a.m.  
Tee Time 9 a.m.

Meal — Prizes awarded immediately after the tournament.

*Optional Stroke Play Outing:*  
1 p.m. June 1, 2014

- \$40 per player (includes cart; paid at Pro Shop)

**PRACTICE ROUND**

*Call Pro Shop for tee times  
and prices.*

(573) 498-0110

**\$\$ FEES \$\$**

Entry Fee: \$60 per player  
\$120 per team

Entry form and fee are due: May 23, 2014.

*Entry fee Includes: greens fees, cart, meal, and prizes.*

**\$\$ PRIZES \$\$**

Hole-in-one, Hole Prizes, Longest Drive, Door Prizes, and more!

*(Flight and prizes determined by number of team entries.)*

**Entry Form — 43rd Annual MSHP Golf Tournament**

**Entry form and fee are due: May 23, 2014.**

Golfer 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Troop \_\_\_\_\_ Retiree \_\_\_\_\_ Shirt Size \_\_\_\_\_

Golfer 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Troop \_\_\_\_\_ Retiree \_\_\_\_\_ Shirt Size \_\_\_\_\_

Team email Contact \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks payable to: MSHP Golf Tournament. Mail entry form and fee to  
Ret. Major Hugh McKay, 3008 Cottonstone Court, Jefferson City, MO 65109.**

Entry Fee: \$60 per player/\$120 per team. Payment *must* be made  
by deadline of May 23, 2014, for proper tournament planning.

Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_



**Recruiting: 1-800-796-7000**  
**Email: [mshppied@mshp.dps.mo.gov](mailto:mshppied@mshp.dps.mo.gov)**  
**Home Page: <http://www.mshp.dps.mo.gov>**

# Those Duffle Bags Don't Belong To Me

*By MVI III Charles G. McMillan, Troop D*

Sgt. Gary L. Braden, Troop D, was stationary on a crossover on Interstate 44 just west of U.S. Highway 65 observing eastbound traffic when he noticed a black Dodge journey. The Dodge passed Sgt. Braden's location in the left lane following a white bobtail tractor at a distance of about one car length (too close).

Sgt. Braden pulled out of the crossover and began to overtake the vehicle. The bobtail suddenly pulled over in the right lane, and the Dodge pulled in right behind him ... like they were linked together. Sgt. Braden activated his emergency equipment and initiated a traffic stop on the Dodge.

He approached the vehicle on the passenger side. As he was getting close to the door, he saw two large duffle bags and what appeared to be an open box of fabric softener. [Heaven knows you don't want your duffle bags to smell (tongue in cheek).]

Sgt. Braden made contact with the female driver and explained why he had stopped her. He asked her if she was traveling with the truck she was driving so close to. She said her boyfriend was in the other vehicle, and they were on their way to St. Louis to visit family. Her boyfriend had rented the Dodge for her.

Sgt. Braden asked to see the rental agreement. She appeared agitated

and nervous, not wanting to make eye contact as she handed him the rental agreement. The contract showed it had been rented in Houston, Texas, and was due back in about a week. Sgt. Braden requested that the subject join him in his patrol vehicle. He ran her name and the social security number she had provided (verbally), and the system was unable to find her.

Sgt. Braden became suspicious of her and asked if everything in the car was hers and she indicated the purple suitcase belonged to her. She wasn't sure who owned the black duffle bags. [What? You are driving a vehicle and there are two *large* duffle bags next to *your* purple suitcase, but you don't have a clue as to where they came from?]

At this time Sgt. Braden requested that Troop D radio send an officer to his location for backup. Within a short period of time, Trooper Adam W. Poulson, Troop D, and Tpr. Rich L. Anderson, Troop D, arrived on the scene. Sgt. Braden asked Tpr. Anderson to continue east to the Strafford, MO, area to look for the white bobtail tractor. He believed the two vehicles were involved in the transportation of illegal drugs.

Sgt. Braden physically inspected the duffle bags and located plastic-

wrapped bundles. His knife was used to make a hole in the bundle revealing marijuana. At this time, Sgt. Braden placed the driver under arrest for possession and read her the Miranda warning. During this conversation (wait for it... wait for it...) he realized she was *not* traveling with the white bobtail tractor, but a black Dodge four-door pickup truck with a Texas license plate. He relayed this information to Troop D radio.

The driver's boyfriend called her on his cell phone and asked if the officer had searched the vehicle or asked to search. At Sgt. Braden's prompting, she told her boyfriend she had been arrested for outstanding warrants and the vehicle had been towed from the scene.

Tpr. Poulson radioed that he had the other Dodge stopped and identified one of the passengers as the subject's boyfriend. Several officers arrived at the scene to transport those arrested to Troop D Headquarters. They were released to Sgt. Dan P. Banasik, Q/DDCC, for further processing.

A total of about 70 pounds of weed was confiscated along with a Taurus 22-caliber handgun found in the grass near the stopped pickup. [Hmmm. How did that get there?]